HUNTER × HUNTER™

ハンター ハンター

4

SHONEN JUMP ADVANCED

Story & Art by

YOSHIHIRO TOGASHI

冨樫義博

I got married (details in volume 5).

Yoshihiro Togashi

Yoshihiro Togashi's manga career began in 1986 at the age of 20, when he won the coveted Osamu Tezuka Award for new manga artists. He debuted in the Japanese **Weekly Shonen Jump** magazine in 1989 with the romantic comedy **Tende Shôwaru Cupid**. From 1990 to 1994 he wrote and drew the hit manga **YuYu Hakusho**, which was followed by the dark comedy science-fiction series **Level E,** and finally this adventure series **Hunter x Hunter**. In 1999 he married the manga artist Naoko Takeuchi.

HUNTER X HUNTER Volume 4
The SHONEN JUMP ADVANCED Graphic Novel Edition

STORY AND ART BY
YOSHIHIRO TOGASHI

English Adaptation/Gary Leach
Translation/Lillian Olsen
Touch-up Art & Lettering/Mark Griffin
Design/Amy Martin
Editor/Pancha Diaz

Managing Editor/Elizabeth Kawasaki
Director of Production/Noboru Watanabe
Vice President of Publishing/Alvin Lu
Vice President & Editor in Chief/Yumi Hoashi
Sr. Director of Acquisitions/Rika Inouye
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PARENTAL ADVISORY
HUNTER X HUNTER is rated T+ for Older Teen. It contains realistic violence. It is recommended for ages 16 and up.

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SHONEN JUMP ADVANCED GRAPHIC NOVEL

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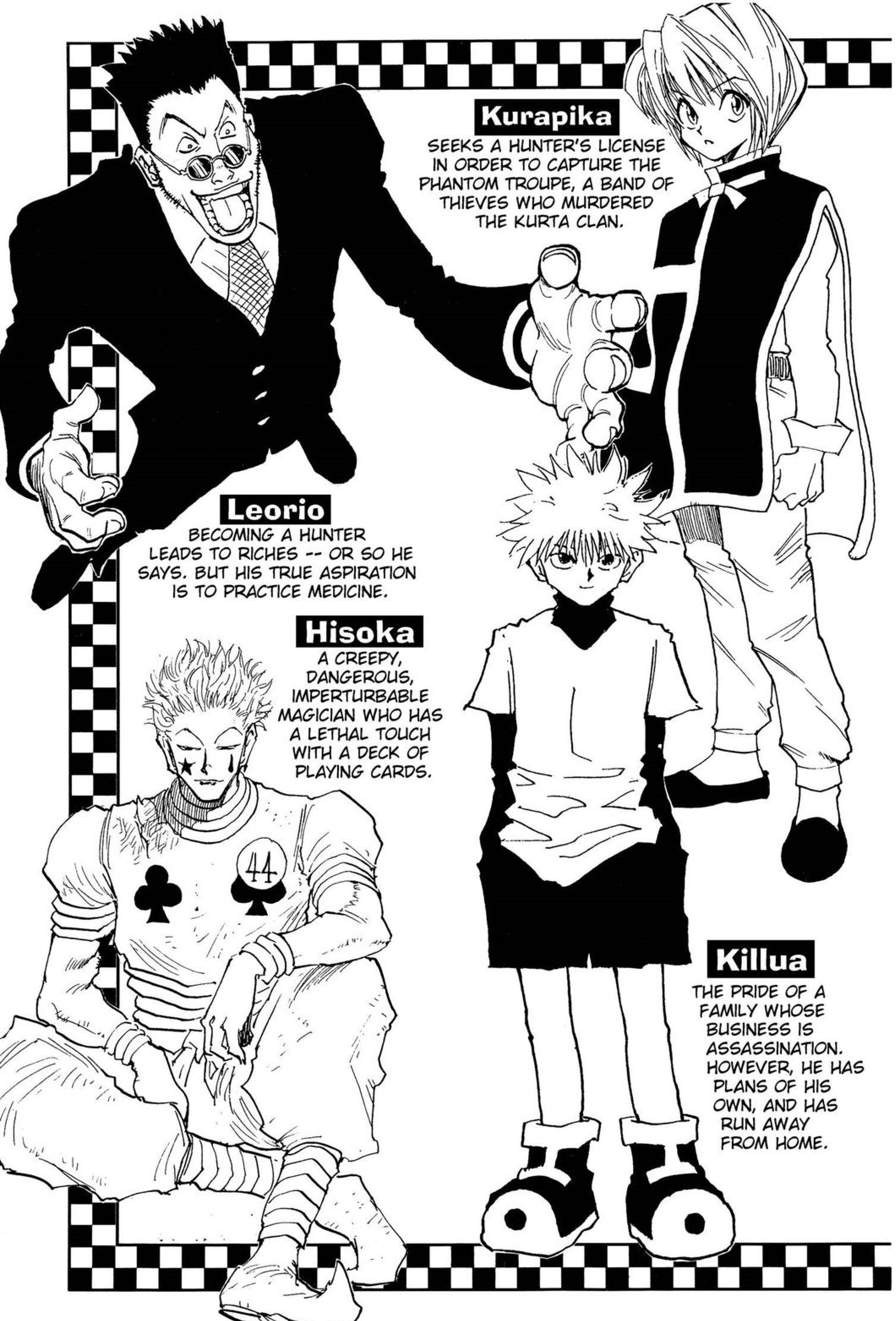
Story & Art by
Yoshihiro Togashi

Volume 4



Kurapika

SEEKS A HUNTER'S LICENSE IN ORDER TO CAPTURE THE PHANTOM TROUPE, A BAND OF THIEVES WHO MURDERED THE KURTA CLAN.

Leorio

BECOMING A HUNTER LEADS TO RICHES -- OR SO HE SAYS. BUT HIS TRUE ASPIRATION IS TO PRACTICE MEDICINE.

Hisoka

A CREEPY, DANGEROUS, IMPERTURBABLE MAGICIAN WHO HAS A LETHAL TOUCH WITH A DECK OF PLAYING CARDS.

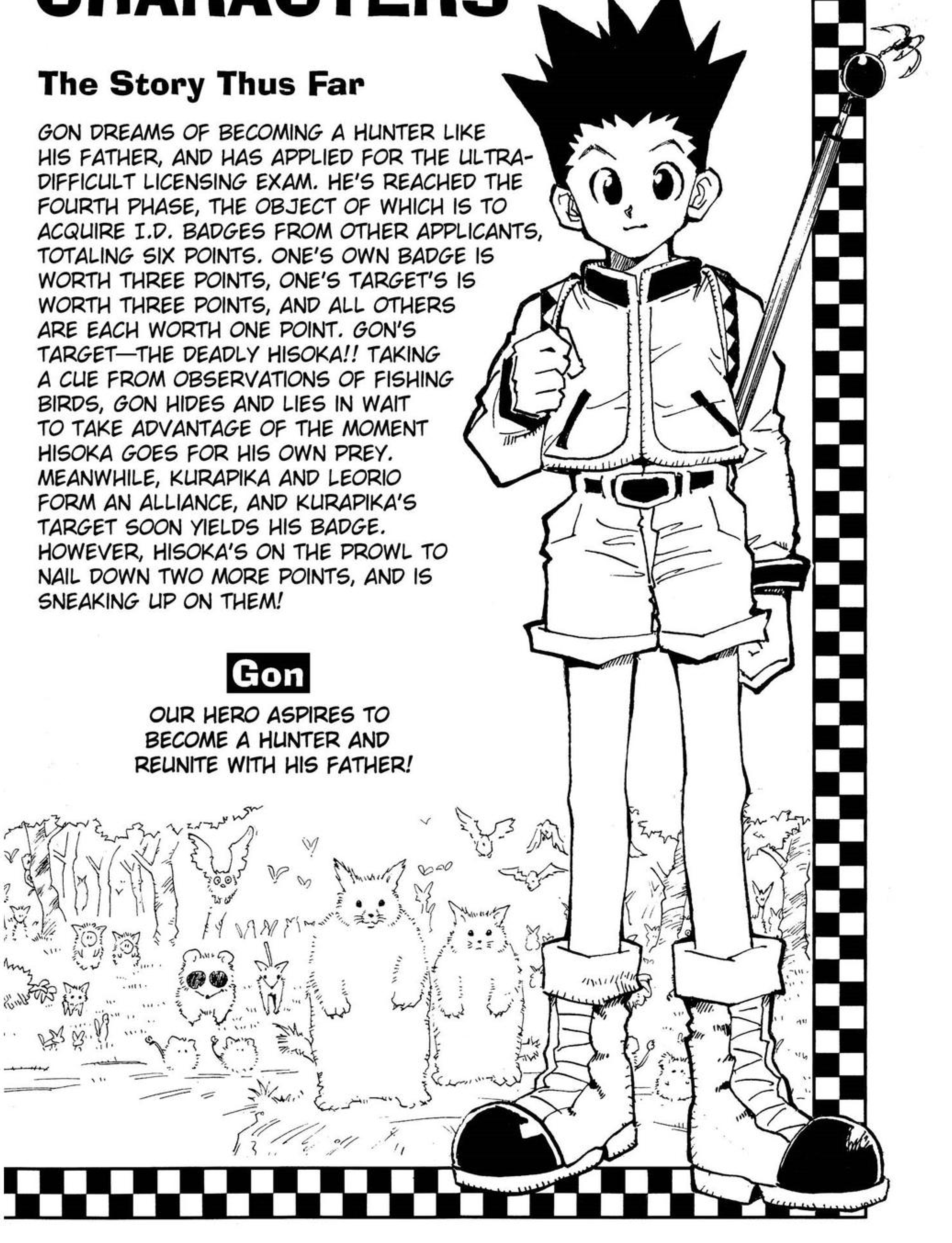
Killua

THE PRIDE OF A FAMILY WHOSE BUSINESS IS ASSASSINATION. HOWEVER, HE HAS PLANS OF HIS OWN, AND HAS RUN AWAY FROM HOME.

CHARACTERS

The Story Thus Far

GON DREAMS OF BECOMING A HUNTER LIKE HIS FATHER, AND HAS APPLIED FOR THE ULTRA-DIFFICULT LICENSING EXAM. HE'S REACHED THE FOURTH PHASE, THE OBJECT OF WHICH IS TO ACQUIRE I.D. BADGES FROM OTHER APPLICANTS, TOTALING SIX POINTS. ONE'S OWN BADGE IS WORTH THREE POINTS, ONE'S TARGET'S IS WORTH THREE POINTS, AND ALL OTHERS ARE EACH WORTH ONE POINT. GON'S TARGET—THE DEADLY HISOKA!! TAKING A CUE FROM OBSERVATIONS OF FISHING BIRDS, GON HIDES AND LIES IN WAIT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE MOMENT HISOKA GOES FOR HIS OWN PREY. MEANWHILE, KURAPIKA AND LEORIO FORM AN ALLIANCE, AND KURAPIKA'S TARGET SOON YIELDS HIS BADGE. HOWEVER, HISOKA'S ON THE PROWL TO NAIL DOWN TWO MORE POINTS, AND IS SNEAKING UP ON THEM!



Gon

OUR HERO ASPIRES TO BECOME A HUNTER AND REUNITE WITH HIS FATHER!

HUNTER×HUNTER™

Volume 4

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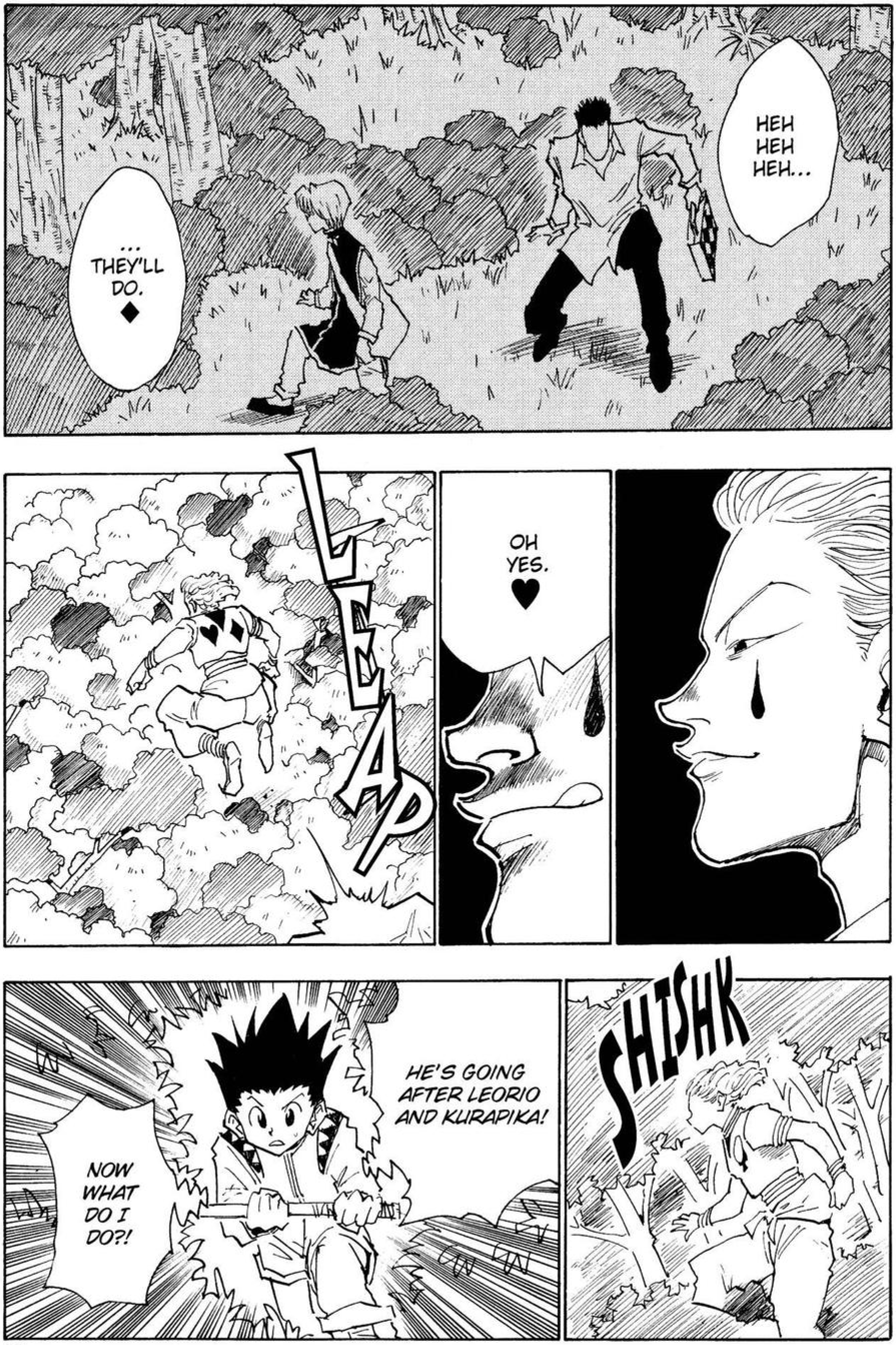
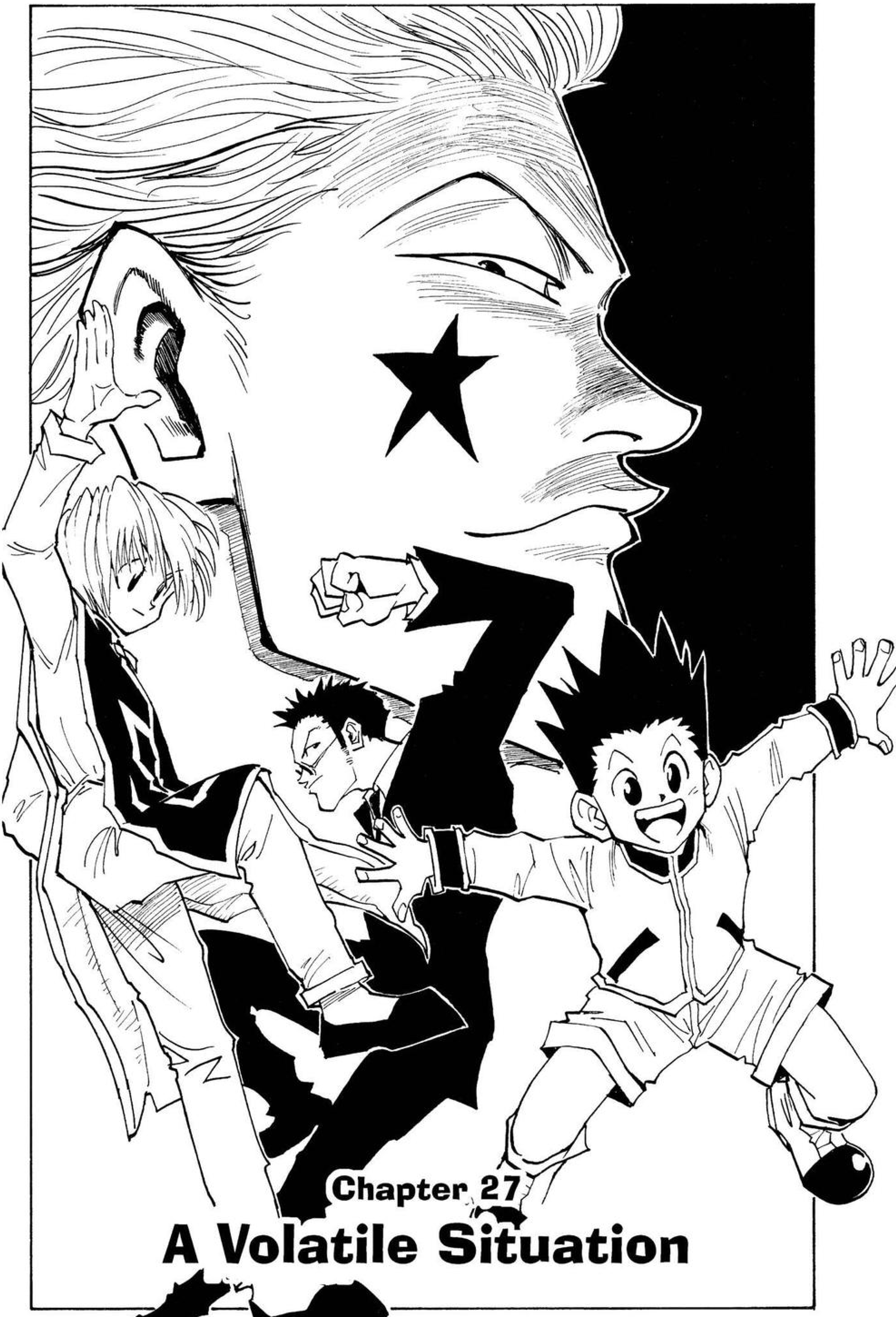
A Volatile Situation

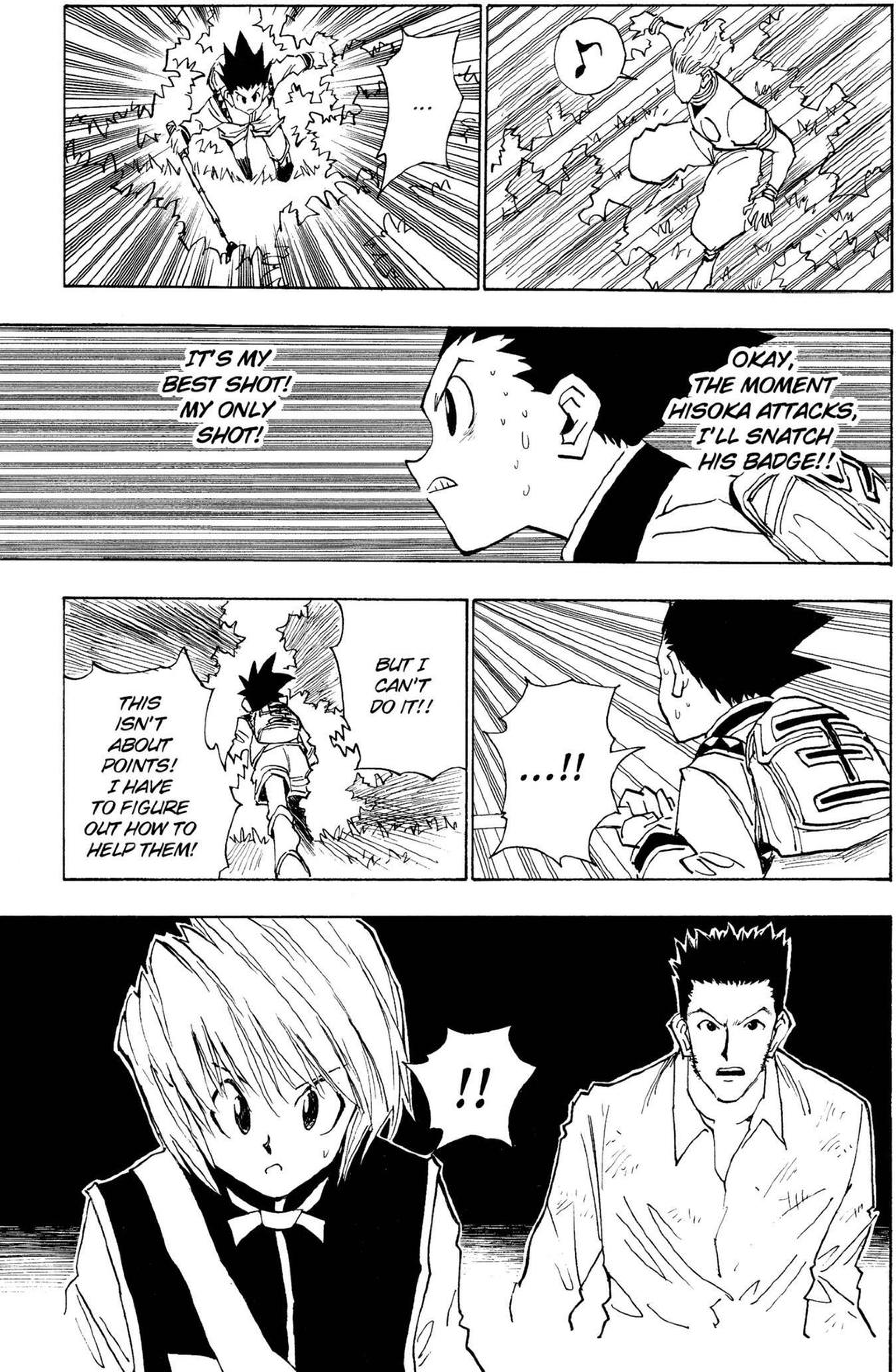

HEH HEH HEH...
... THEY'LL DO. ◆
OH YES. ♥
LEAP
SHISHK
HE'S GOING AFTER LEORIO AND KURAPIKA!
NOW WHAT DO I DO?!

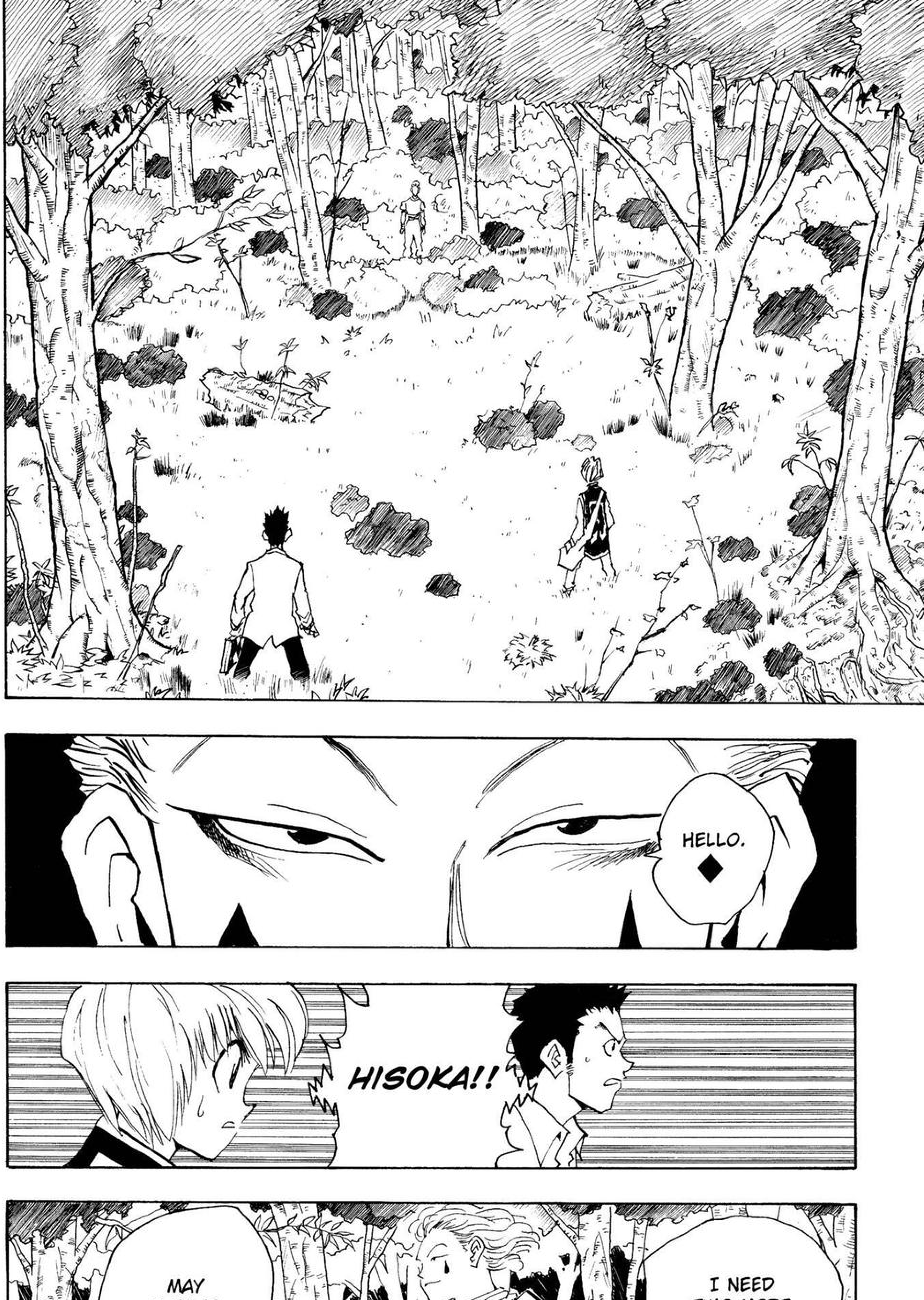


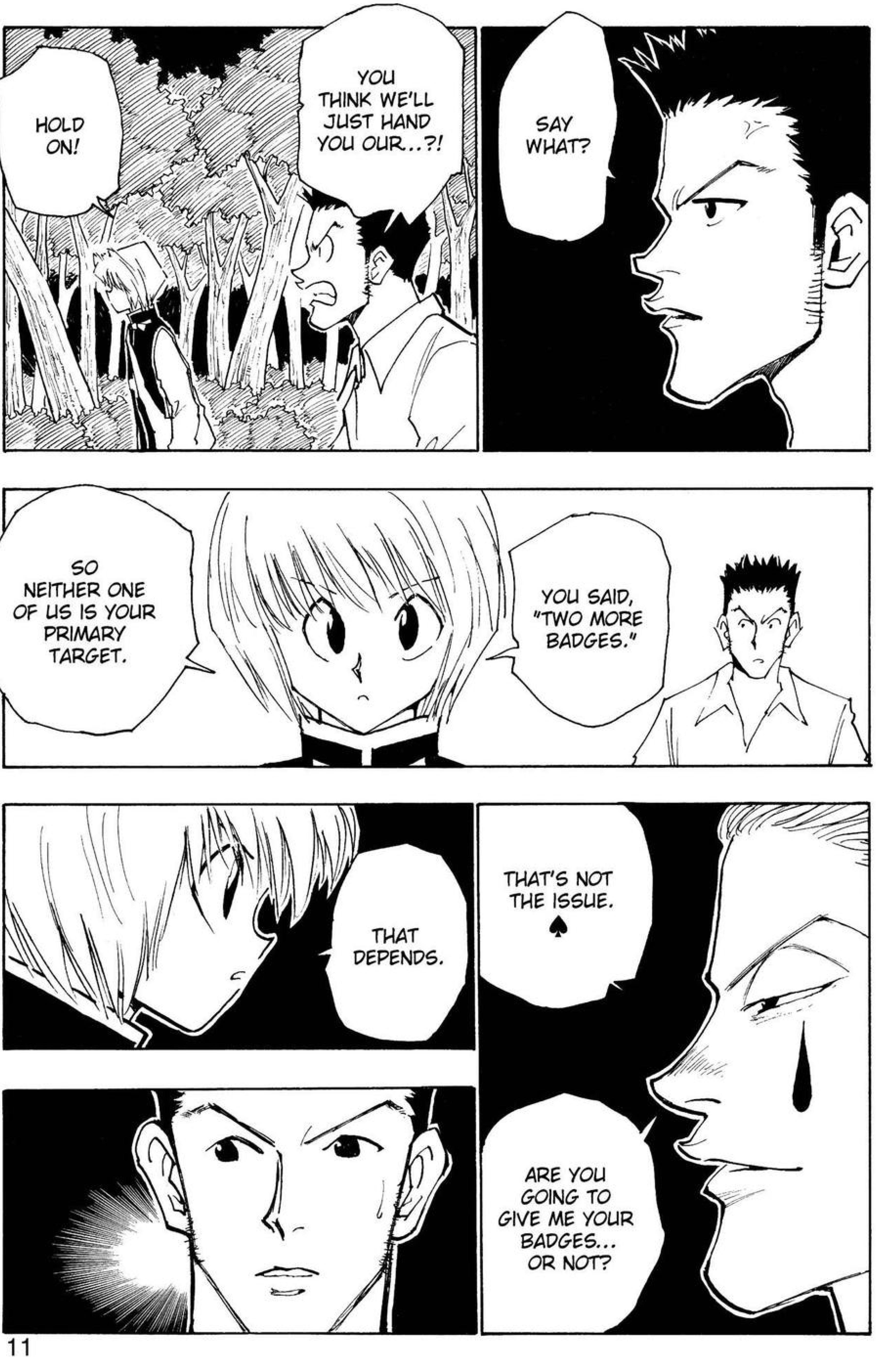
Chapter 27

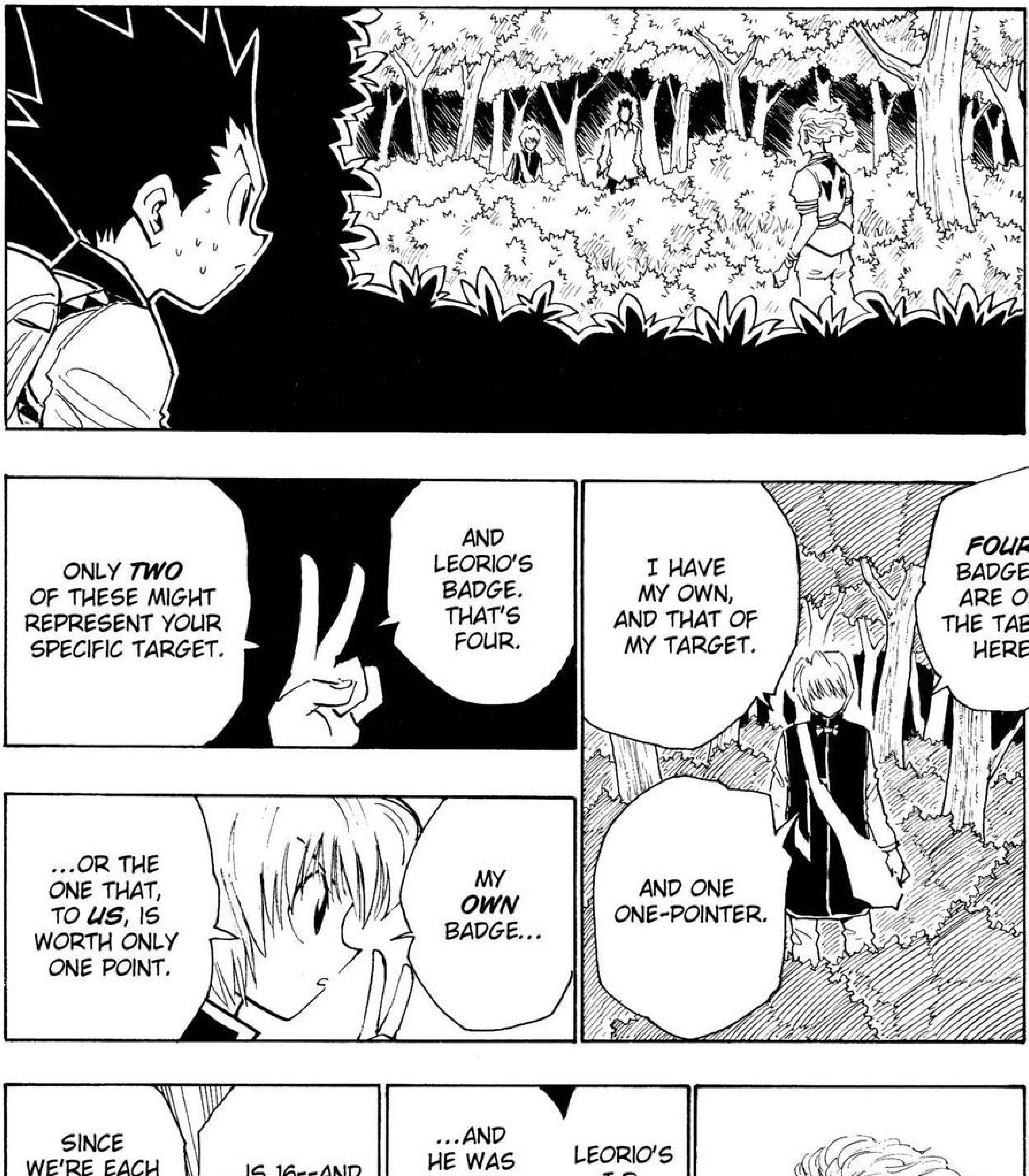
A Volatile Situation

READ THIS WAY

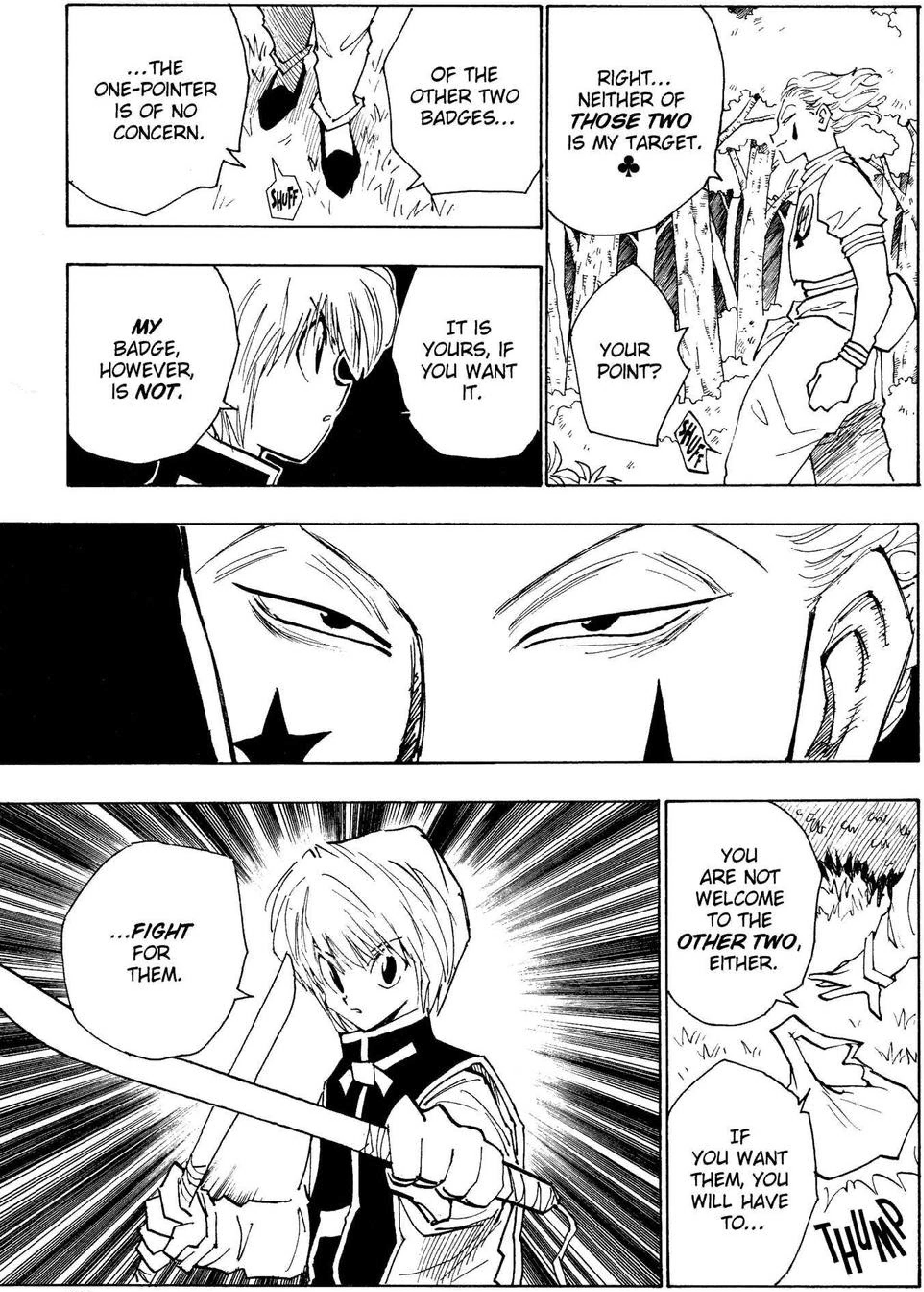

♪
...
OKAY, THE MOMENT HISOKA ATTACKS, I'LL SNATCH HIS BADGE!!
IT'S MY BEST SHOT! MY ONLY SHOT!
...!!
BUT I CAN'T DO IT!!
THIS ISN'T ABOUT POINTS! I HAVE TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO HELP THEM!
!!

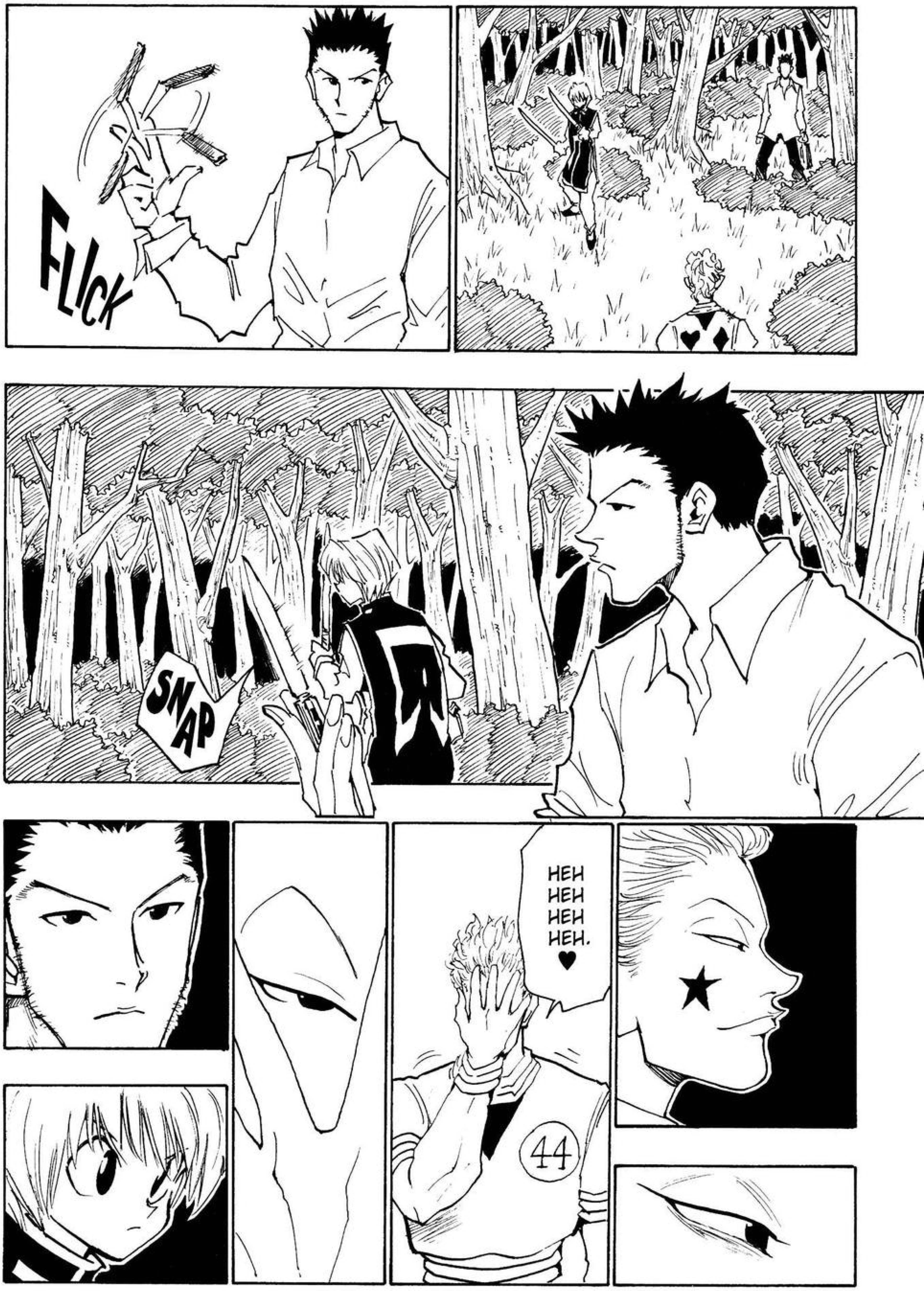

HELLO. ◆
HISOKA!!
I NEED TWO MORE BADGES TO PASS. ♣
MAY I HAVE YOURS?

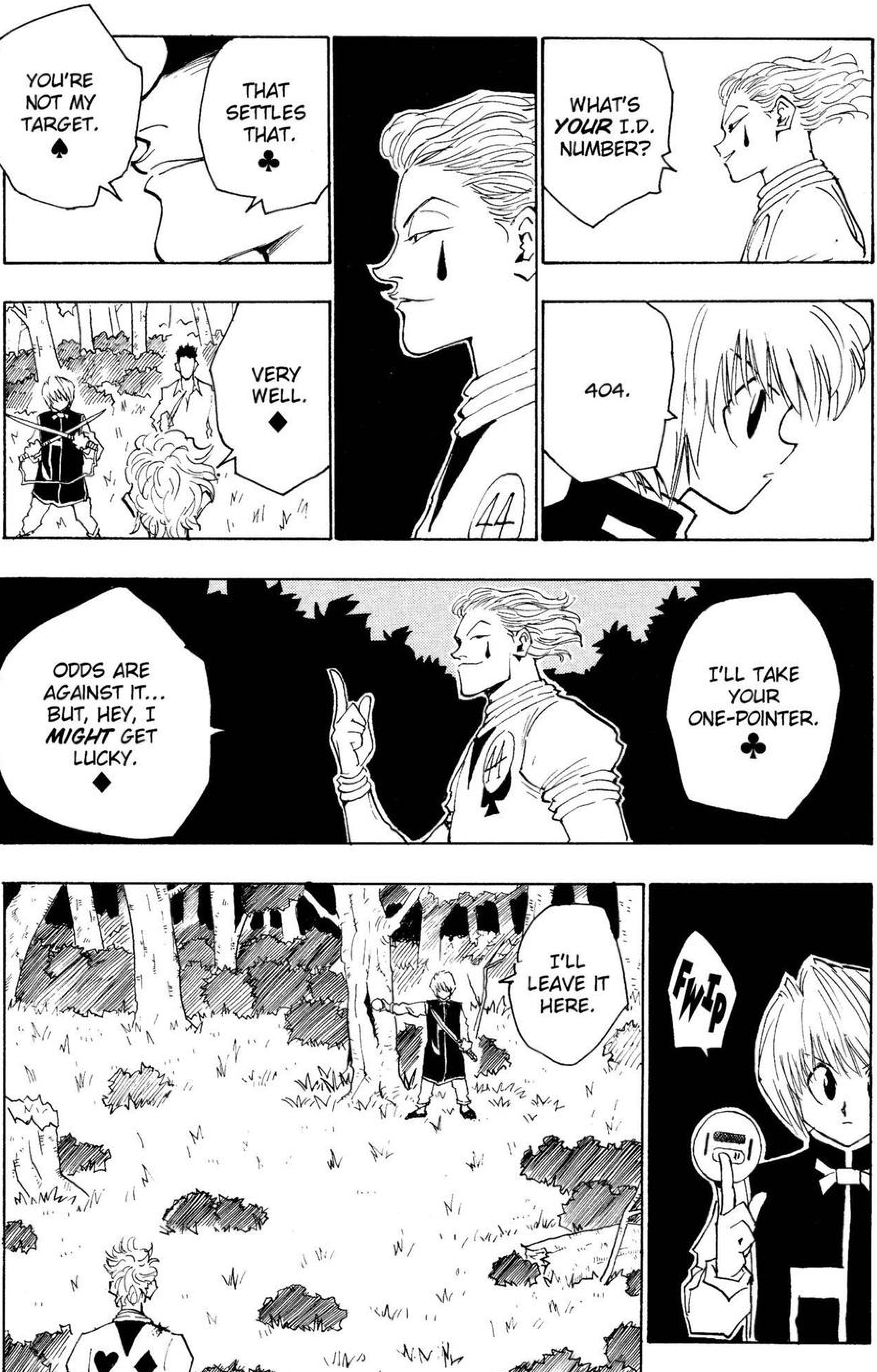

SAY WHAT?
YOU THINK WE'LL JUST HAND YOU OUR..?!
HOLD ON!
YOU SAID, "TWO MORE BADGES."
SO NEITHER ONE OF US IS YOUR PRIMARY TARGET.
THAT'S NOT THE ISSUE. ♠
ARE YOU GOING TO GIVE ME YOUR BADGES... OR NOT?
THAT DEPENDS.

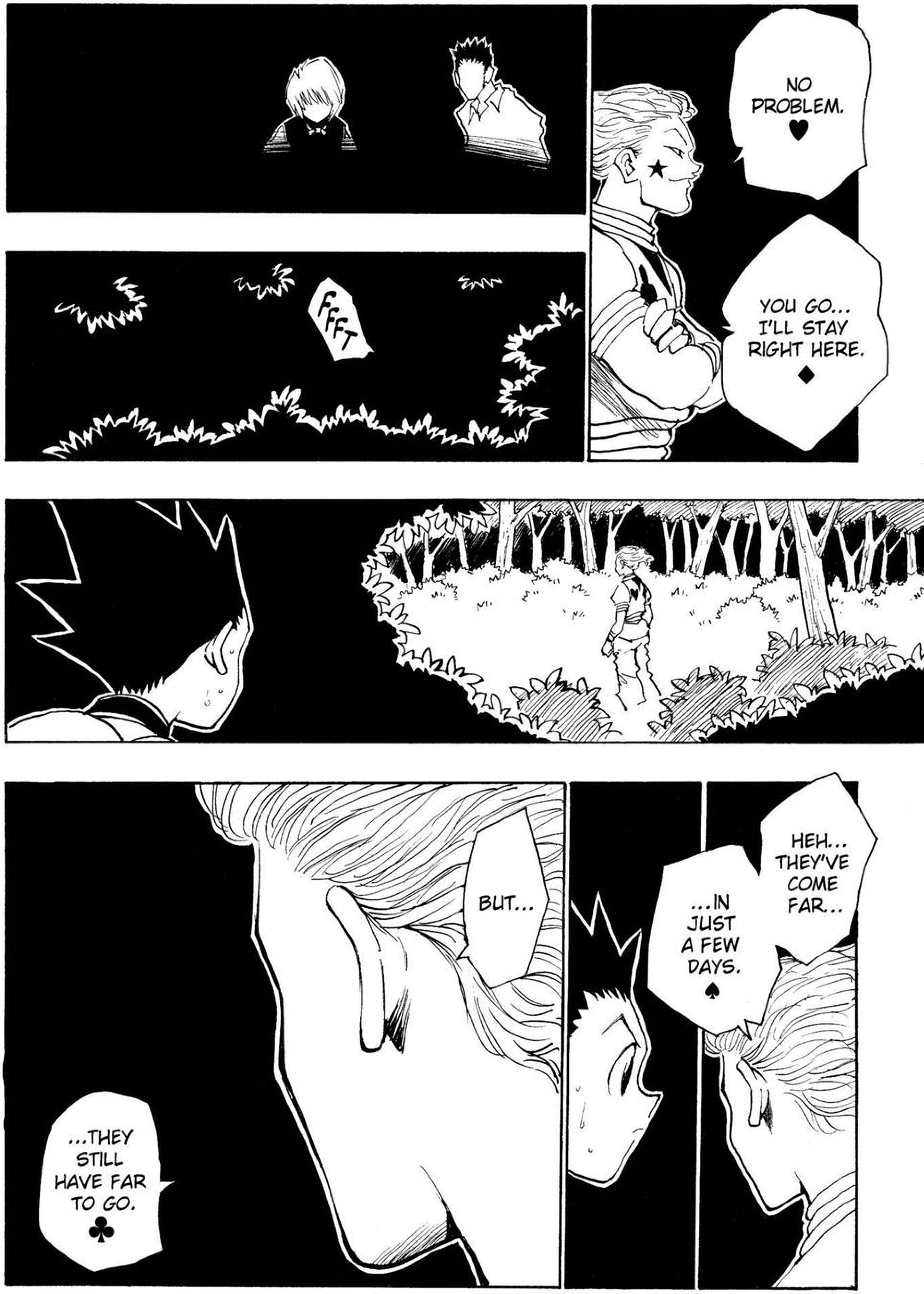

FOUR BADGES ARE ON THE TABLE HERE.
I HAVE MY OWN, AND THAT OF MY TARGET.
AND ONE ONE-POINTER.
AND LEORIO'S BADGE. THAT'S FOUR.
ONLY **TWO** OF THESE MIGHT REPRESENT YOUR SPECIFIC TARGET.
MY **OWN** BADGE...
...OR THE ONE THAT, TO **US**, IS WORTH ONLY ONE POINT.
44
LEORIO'S I.D. NUMBER IS 403...
...AND HE WAS TONPA'S TARGET. TONPA'S NUMBER...
...IS 16--AND HE WAS **MY** TARGET.
SINCE WE'RE EACH THE TARGET OF ONLY ONE OTHER...
16

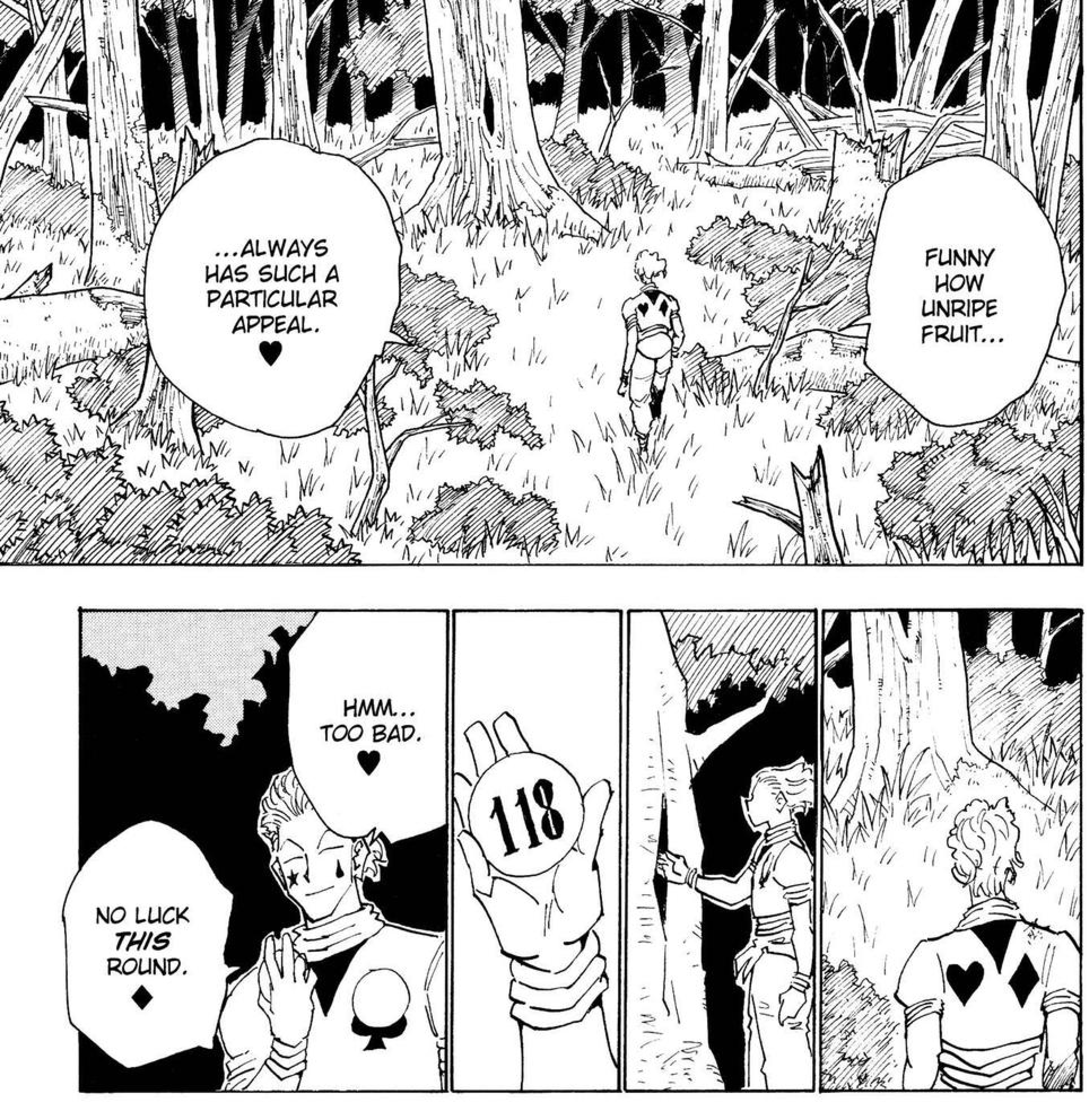
READ THIS WAY

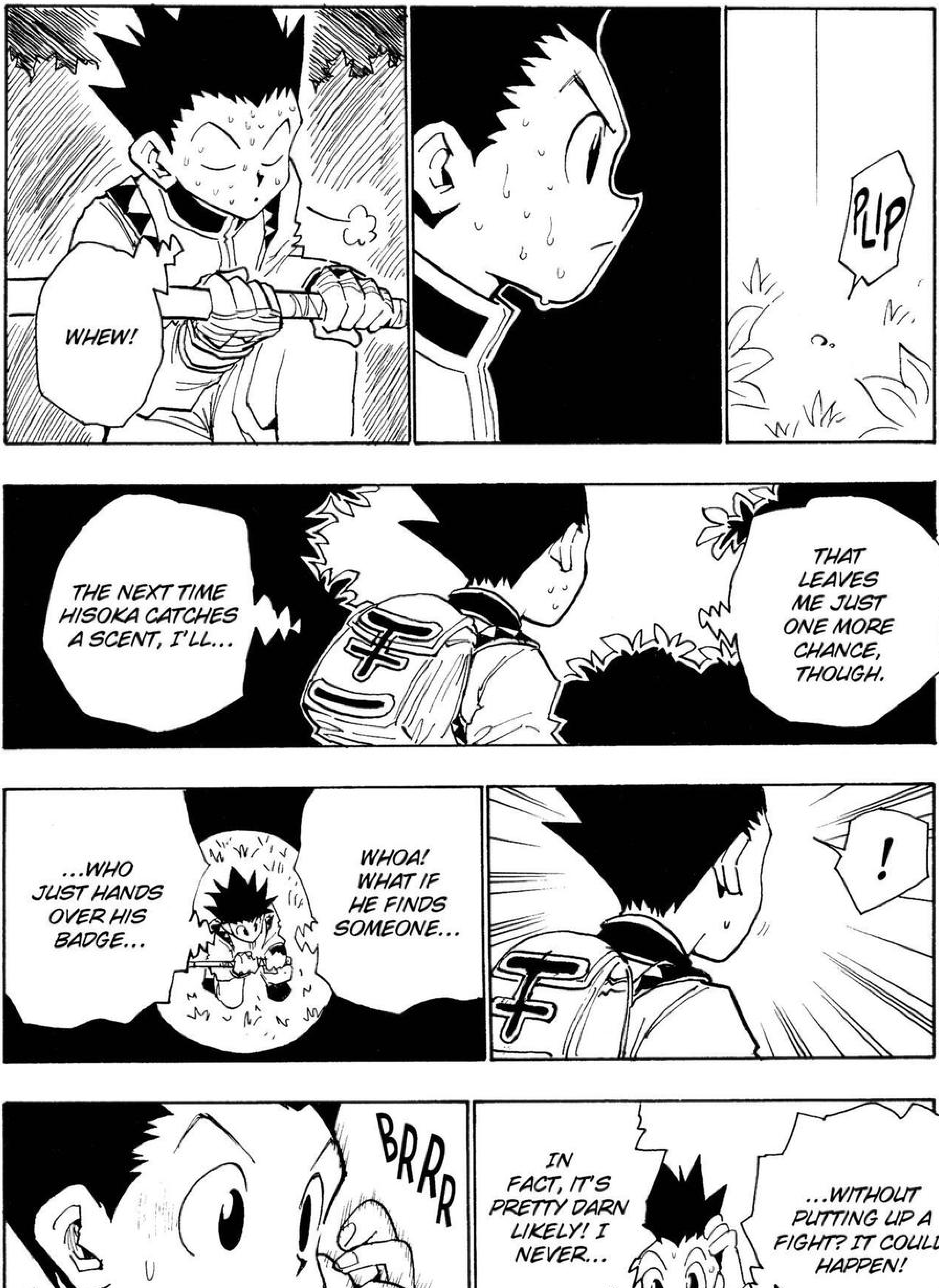

RIGHT… NEITHER OF *THOSE TWO* IS MY TARGET. ♣
OF THE OTHER TWO BADGES…
…THE ONE-POINTER IS OF NO CONCERN.
SHUFF
YOUR POINT?
SHUFF
IT IS YOURS, IF YOU WANT IT.
MY BADGE, HOWEVER, IS *NOT.*
YOU ARE NOT WELCOME TO THE *OTHER TWO*, EITHER.
IF YOU WANT THEM, YOU WILL HAVE TO…
THUMP
…*FIGHT* FOR THEM.

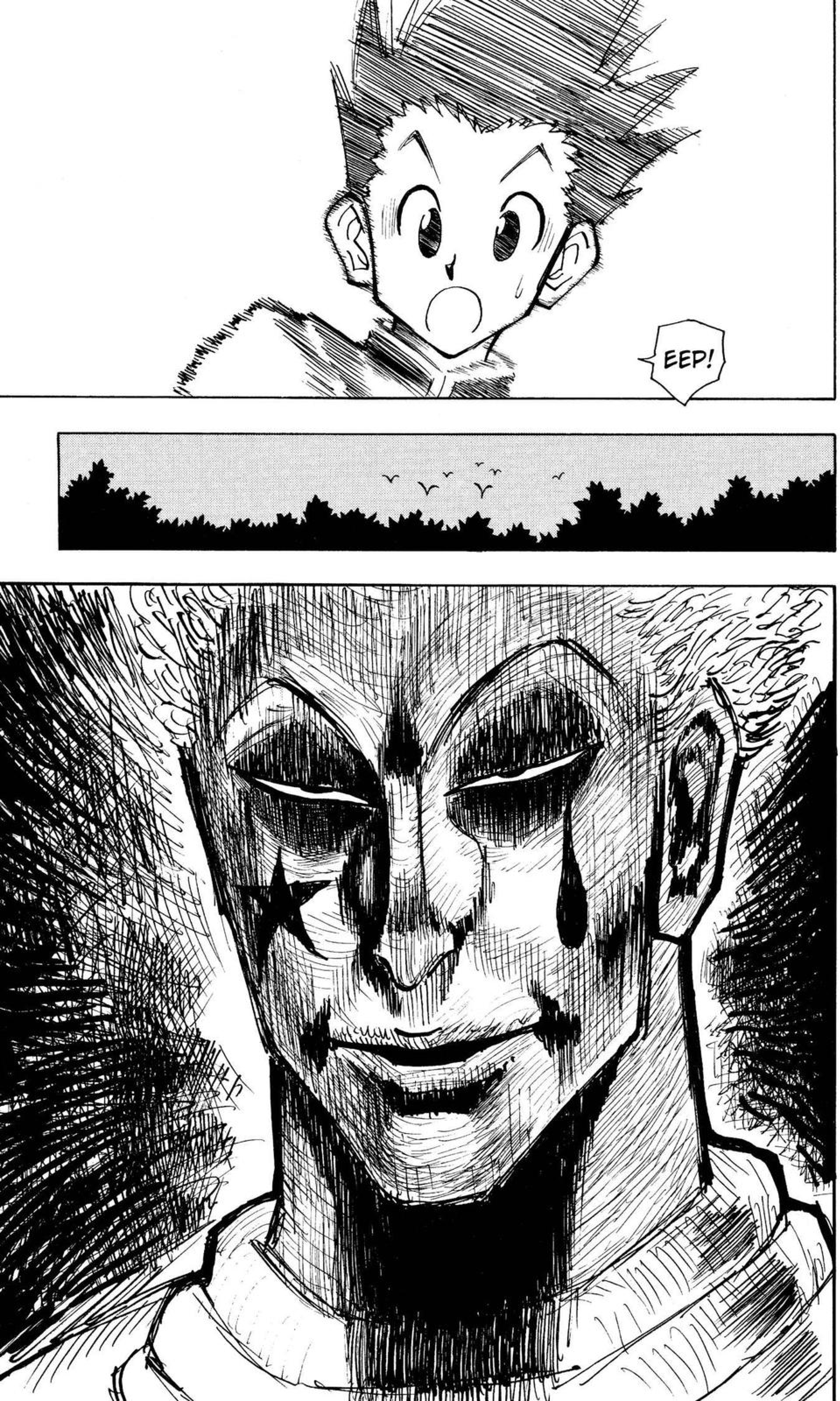

FLICK
SNAP
HEH HEH HEH HEH. ♥
44

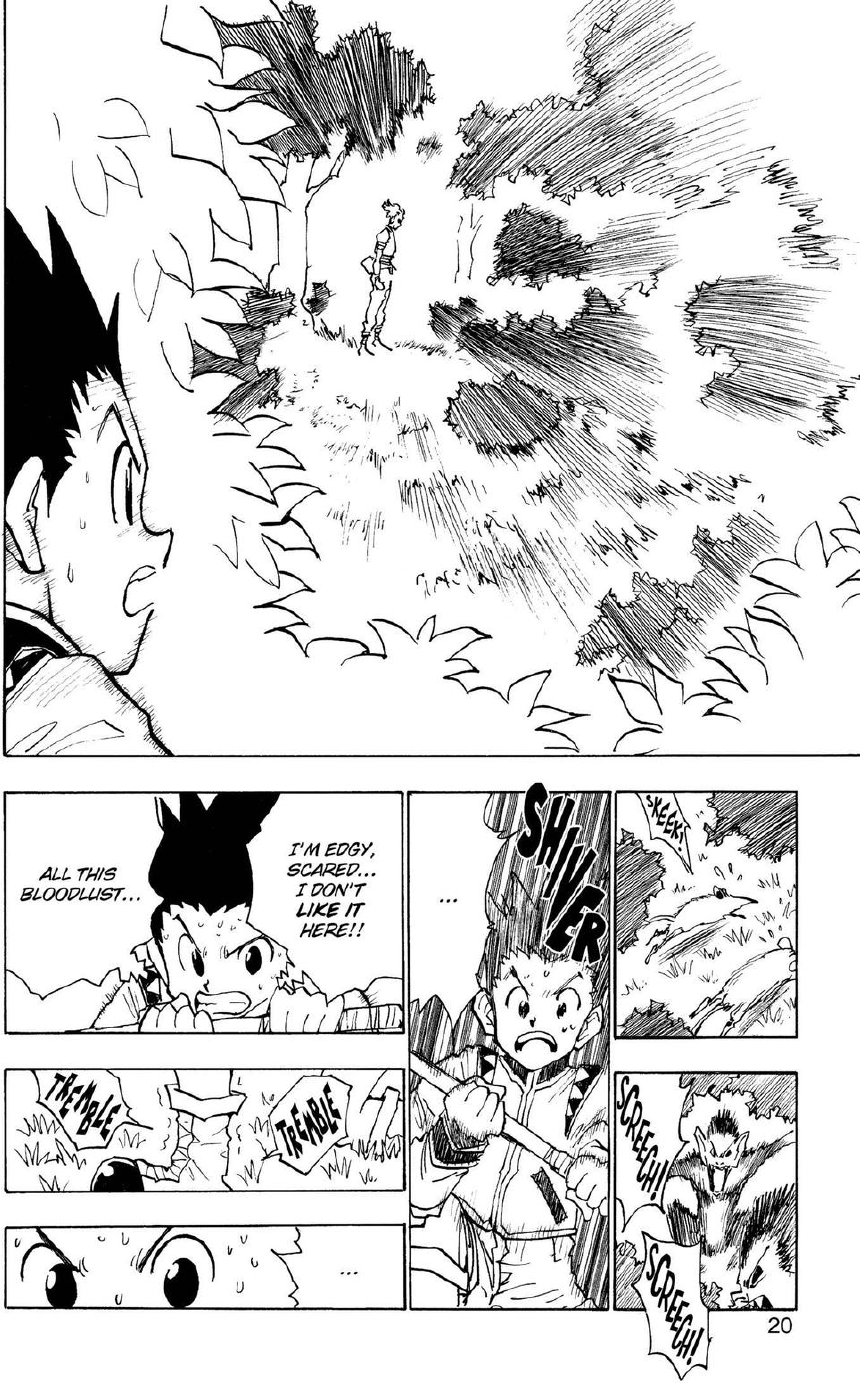

WHAT'S YOUR I.D. NUMBER?
404.
YOU'RE NOT MY TARGET. ♠
THAT SETTLES THAT. ♣
VERY WELL. ♦
I'LL TAKE YOUR ONE-POINTER. ♣
ODDS ARE AGAINST IT... BUT, HEY, I MIGHT GET LUCKY. ♦
FWIP
I'LL LEAVE IT HERE.

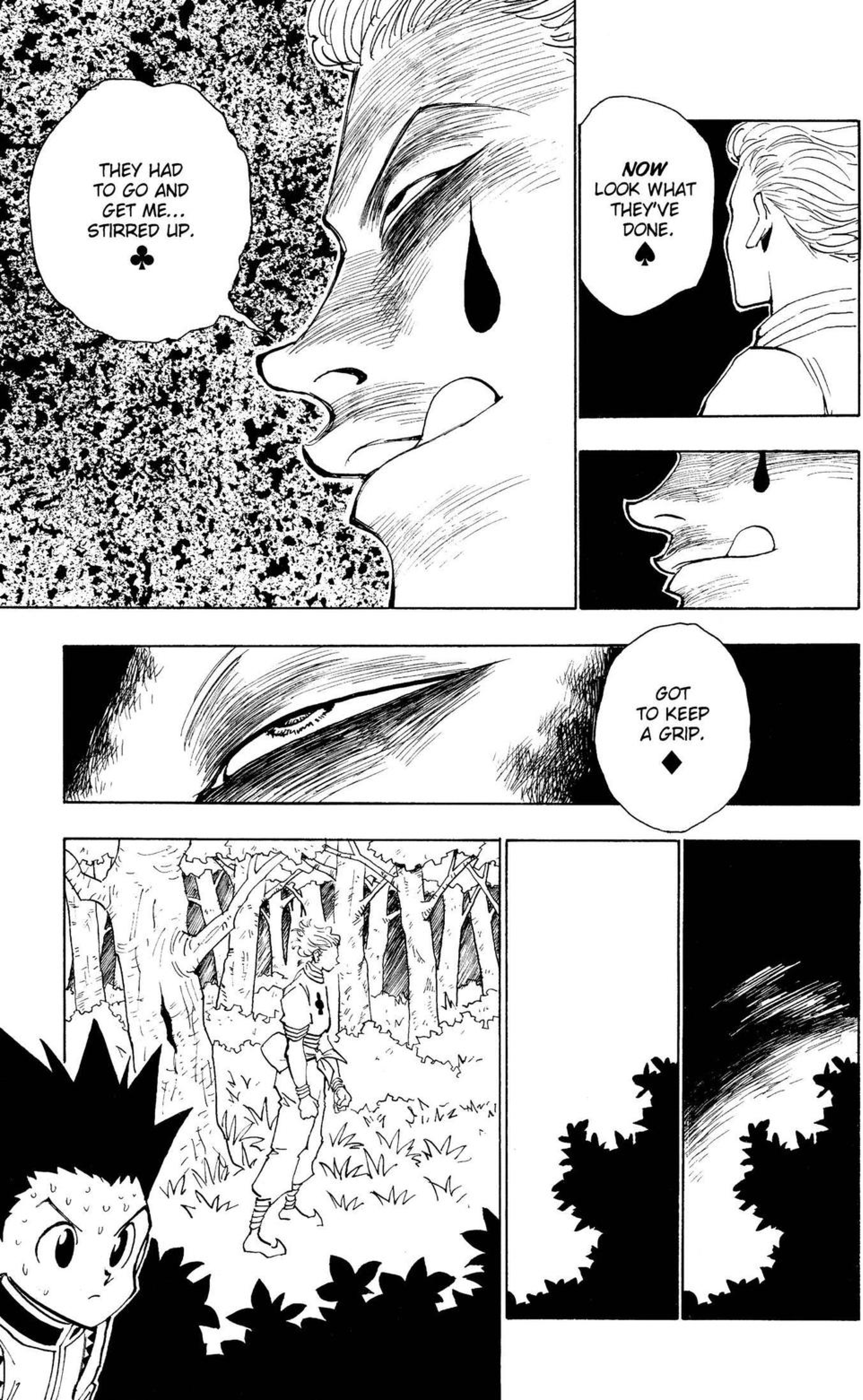

NO PROBLEM. ♥
YOU GO... I'LL STAY RIGHT HERE. ♦
FFFT
HEH... THEY'VE COME FAR...
...IN JUST A FEW DAYS. ♠
BUT...
...THEY STILL HAVE FAR TO GO. ♣

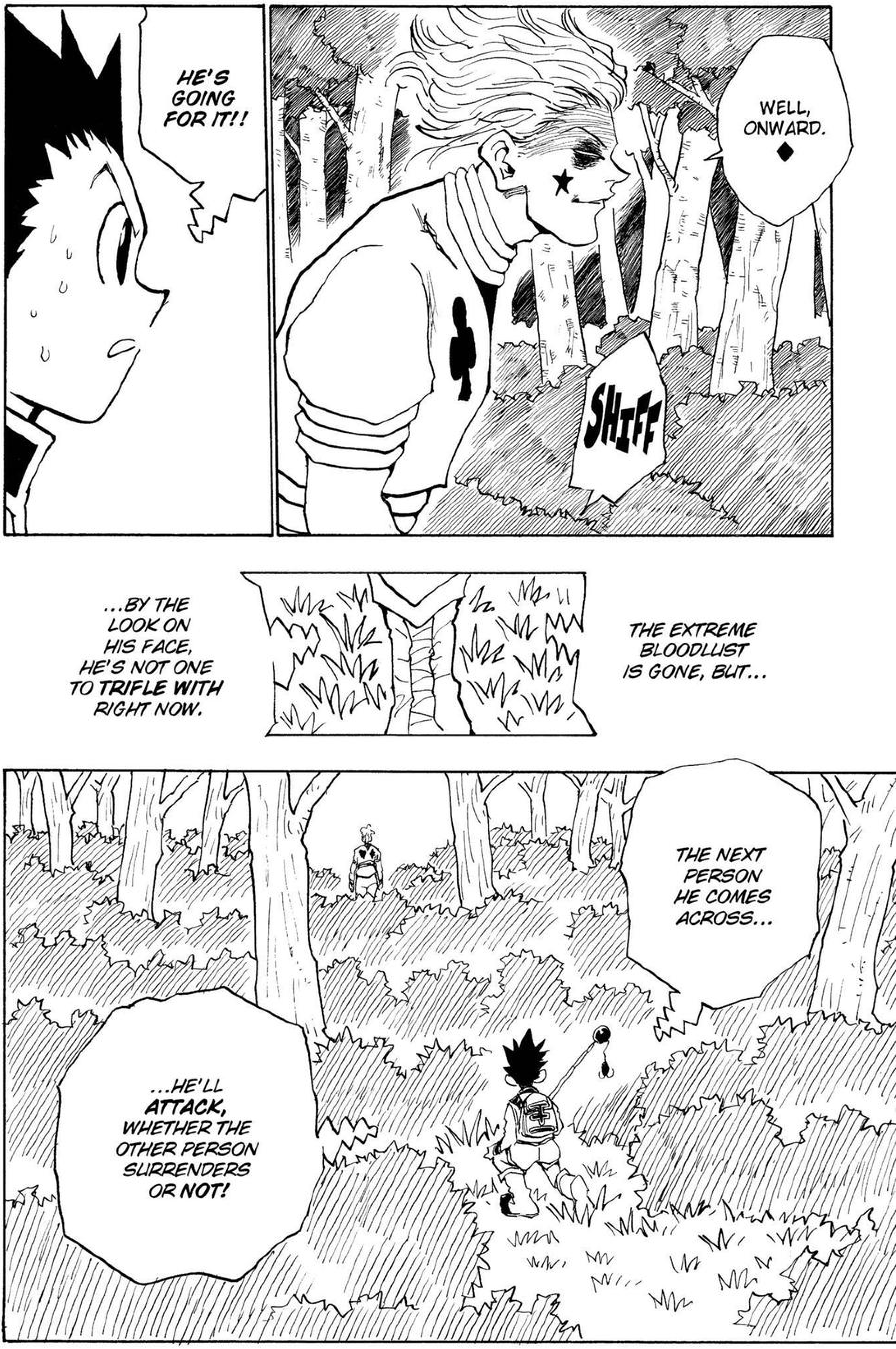

FUNNY HOW UNRIPE FRUIT…
…ALWAYS HAS SUCH A PARTICULAR APPEAL. ♥
118
HMM.. TOO BAD. ♥
NO LUCK *THIS* ROUND. ◆
ON WITH THE HUNT. ♣


PLIP
WHEW!
THAT LEAVES ME JUST ONE MORE CHANCE, THOUGH.
THE NEXT TIME HISOKA CATCHES A SCENT, I'LL...
!
WHOA! WHAT IF HE FINDS SOMEONE...
...WHO JUST HANDS OVER HIS BADGE...
...WITHOUT PUTTING UP A FIGHT? IT COULD HAPPEN!
IN FACT, IT'S PRETTY DARN LIKELY! I NEVER...
BRRR

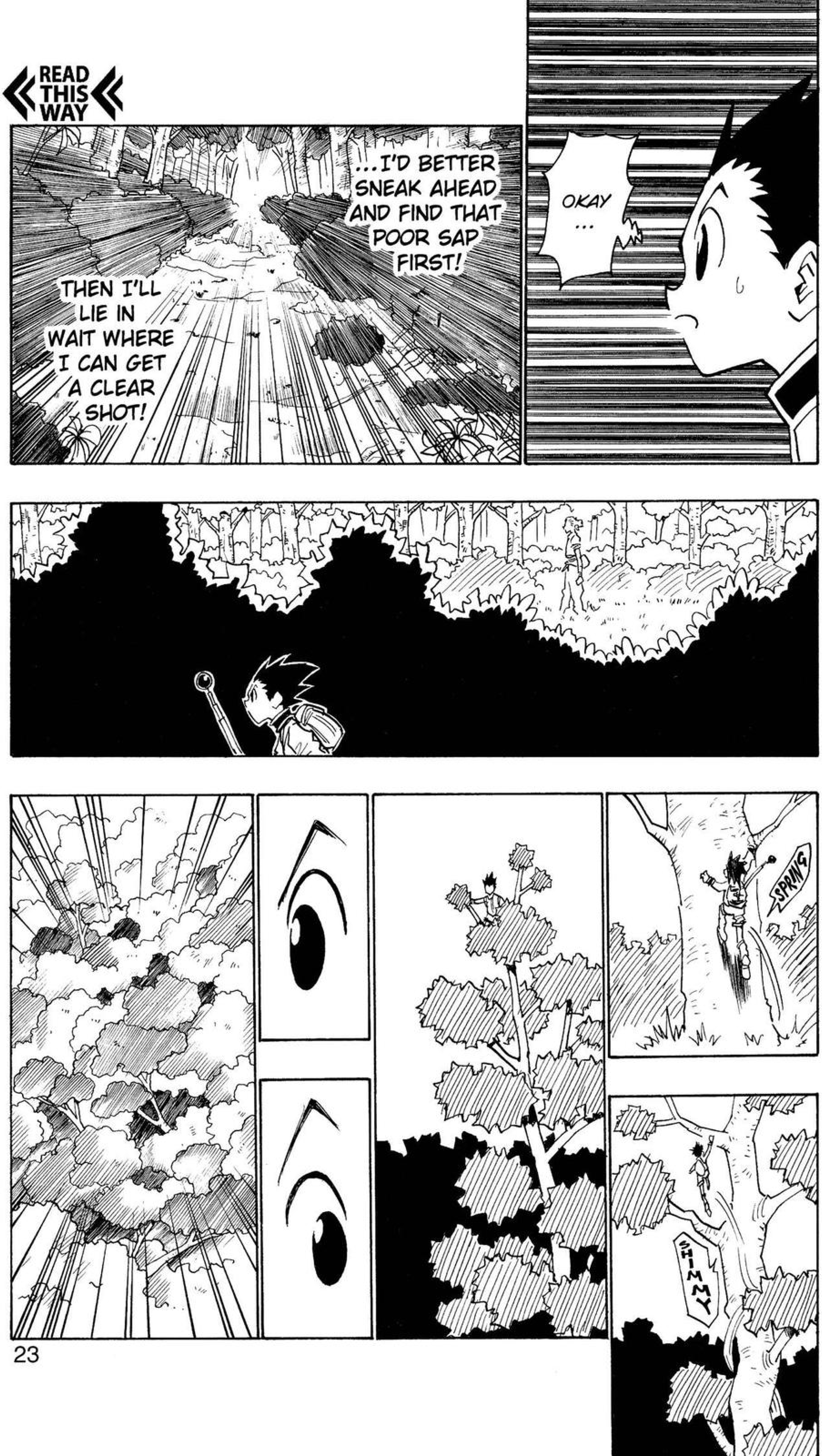

EEP!

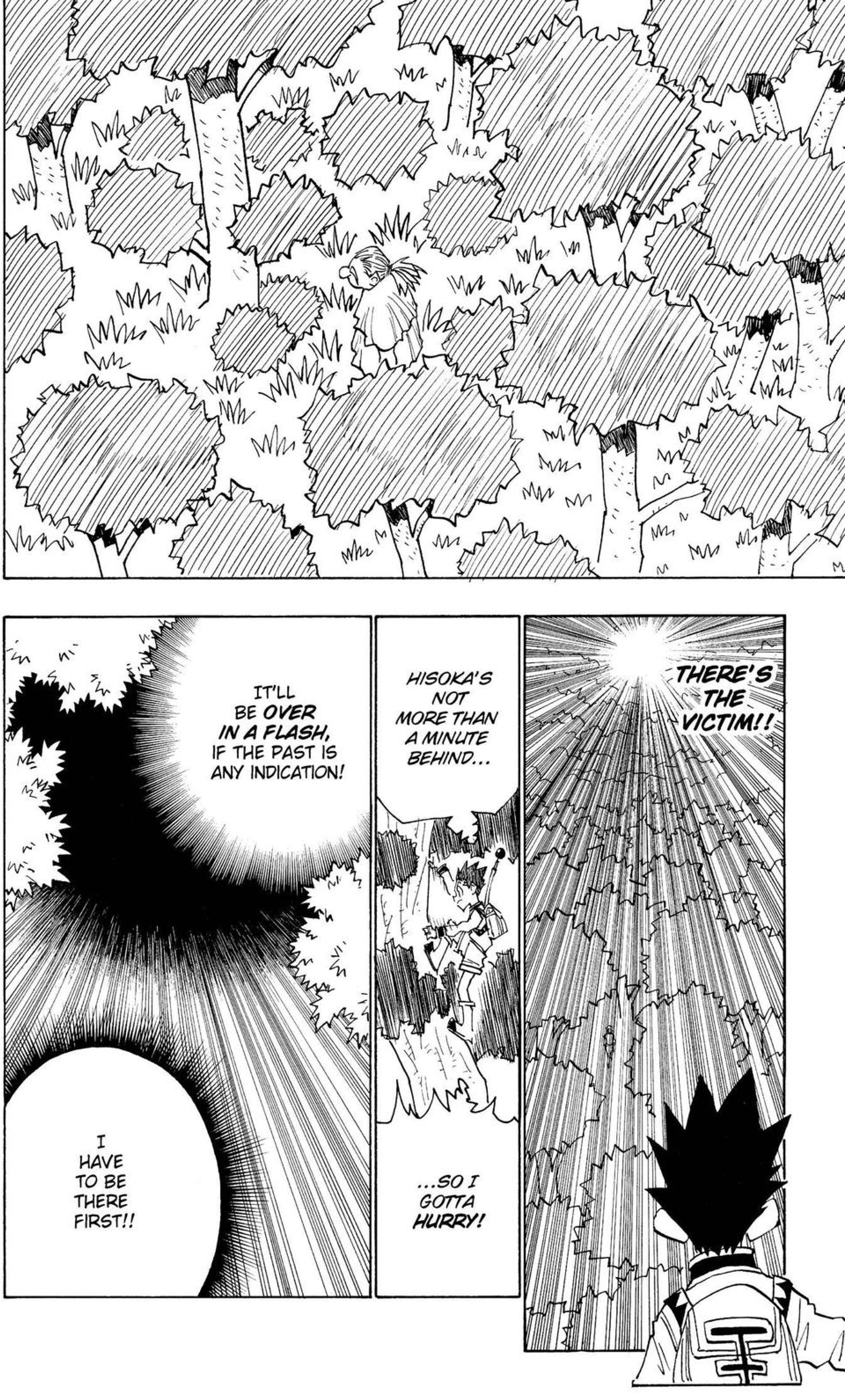

ALL THIS BLOODLUST...
I'M EDGY, SCARED... I DON'T **LIKE IT** HERE!!
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
...
SHIVER
...
SKEEK!
SCREECH!
SCREECH!


NOW LOOK WHAT THEY'VE DONE. ♠
THEY HAD TO GO AND GET ME... STIRRED UP. ♣
GOT TO KEEP A GRIP. ♦

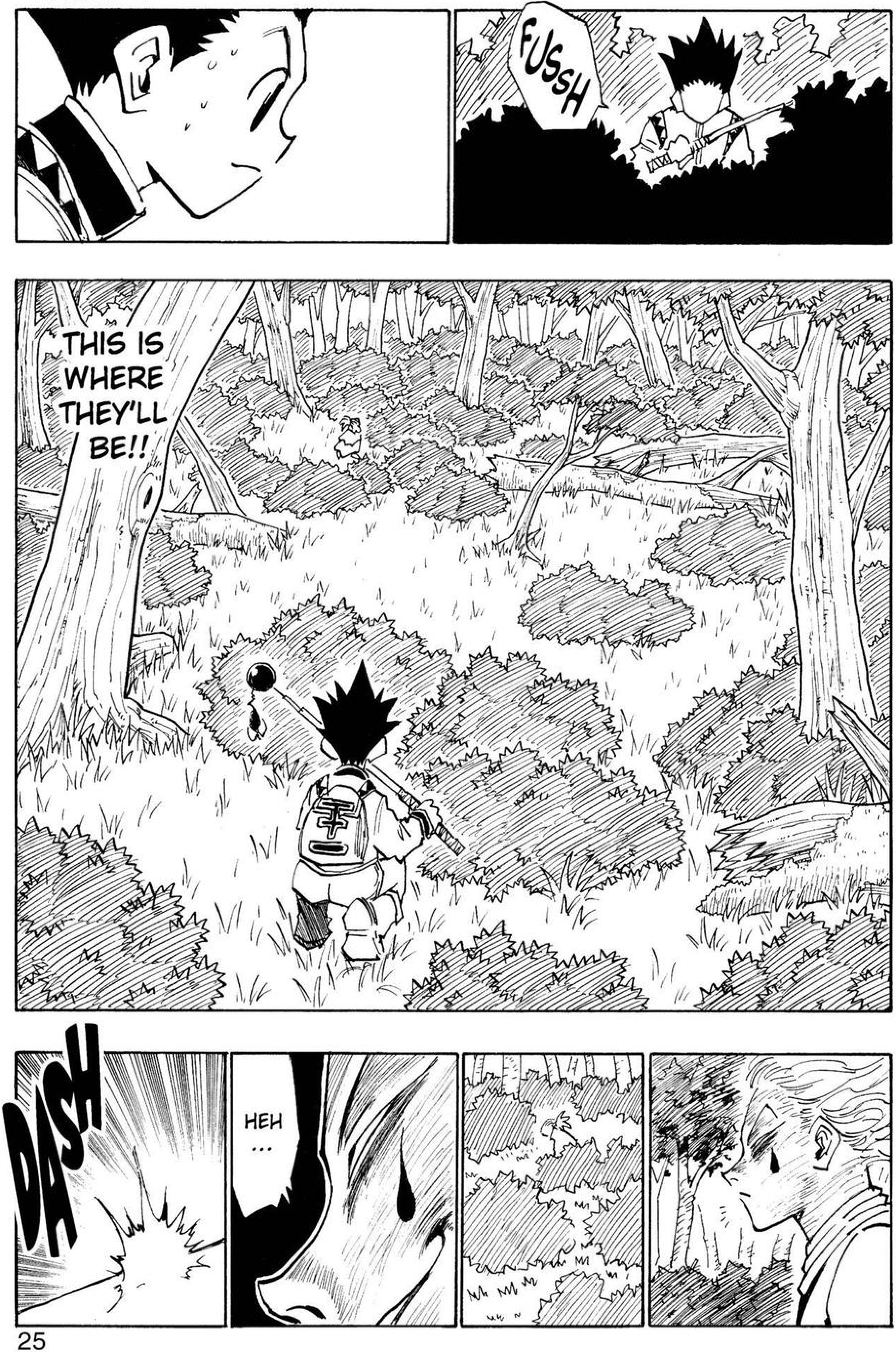

WELL, ONWARD. ◆
SHIFF
HE'S GOING FOR IT!!
THE EXTREME BLOODLUST IS GONE, BUT...
...BY THE LOOK ON HIS FACE, HE'S NOT ONE TO **TRIFLE WITH** RIGHT NOW.
THE NEXT PERSON HE COMES ACROSS...
...HE'LL **ATTACK,** WHETHER THE OTHER PERSON SURRENDERS OR **NOT!**

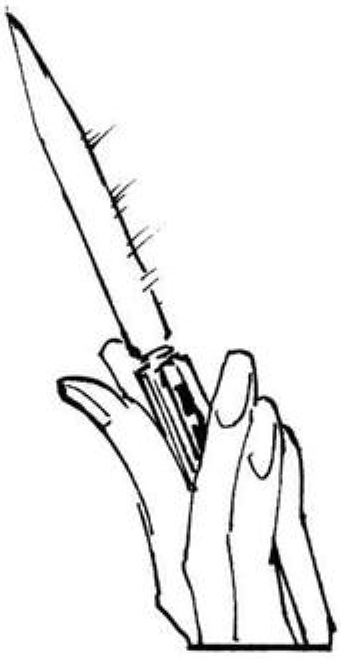
READ THIS WAY

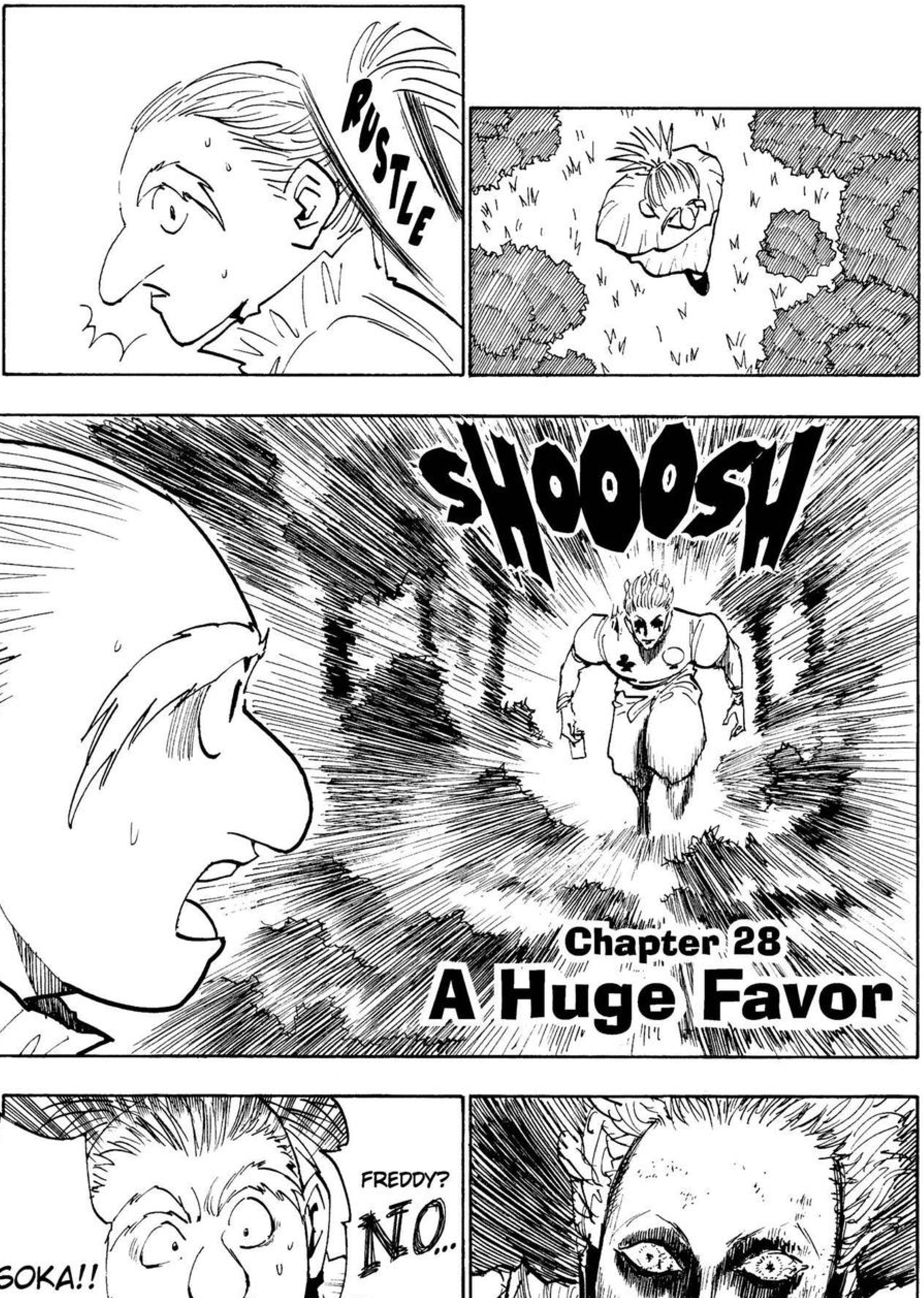

OKAY...
...I'D BETTER SNEAK AHEAD AND FIND THAT POOR SAP FIRST!
THEN I'LL LIE IN WAIT WHERE I CAN GET A CLEAR SHOT!
SPRING
SHIMMY


THERE'S THE VICTIM!!
HISOKA'S NOT MORE THAN A MINUTE BEHIND…
…SO I GOTTA HURRY!
IT'LL BE OVER IN A FLASH, IF THE PAST IS ANY INDICATION!
I HAVE TO BE THERE FIRST!!

READ THIS WAY


FUSSH
THIS IS WHERE THEY'LL BE!!
HEH ...
DASH

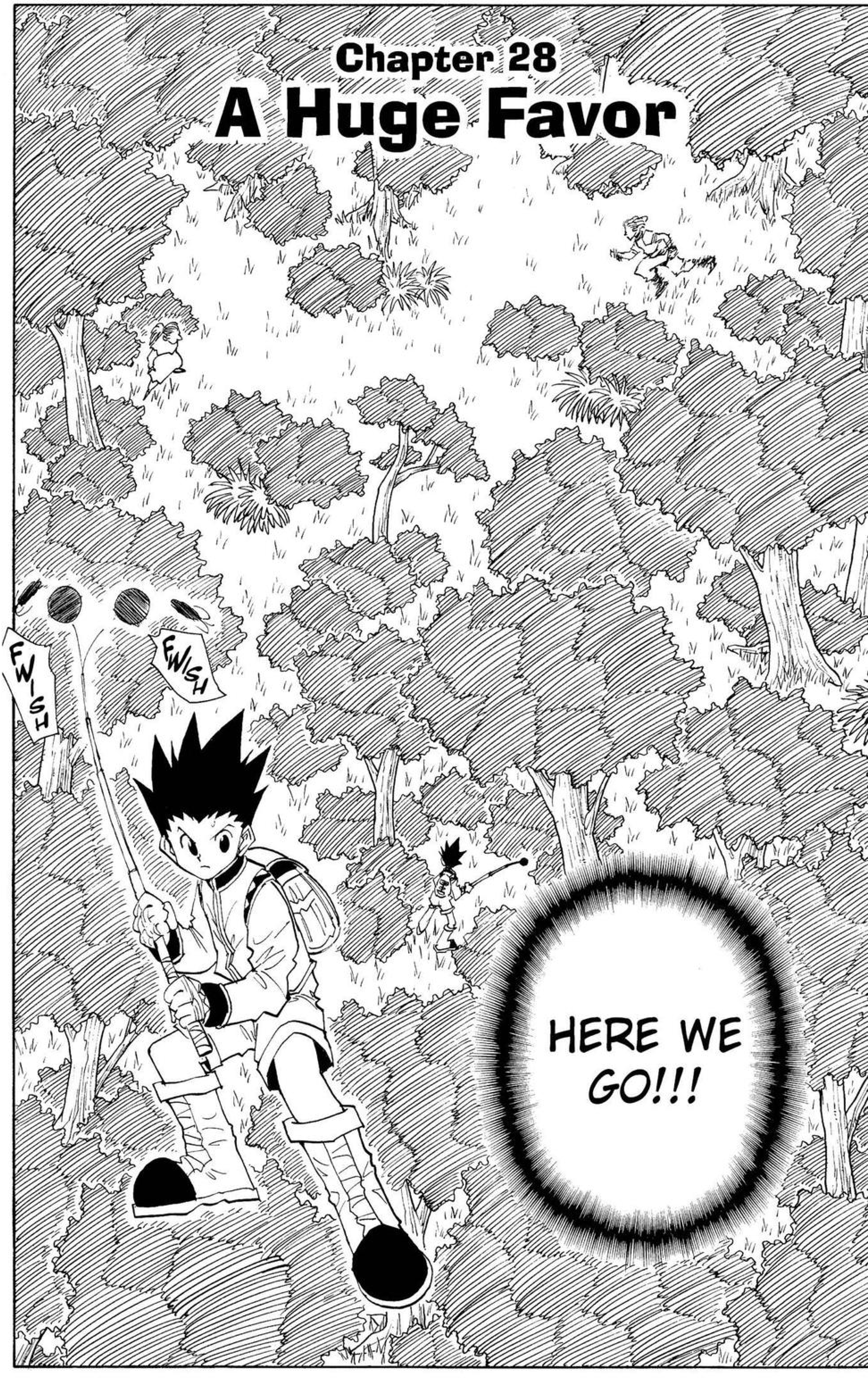


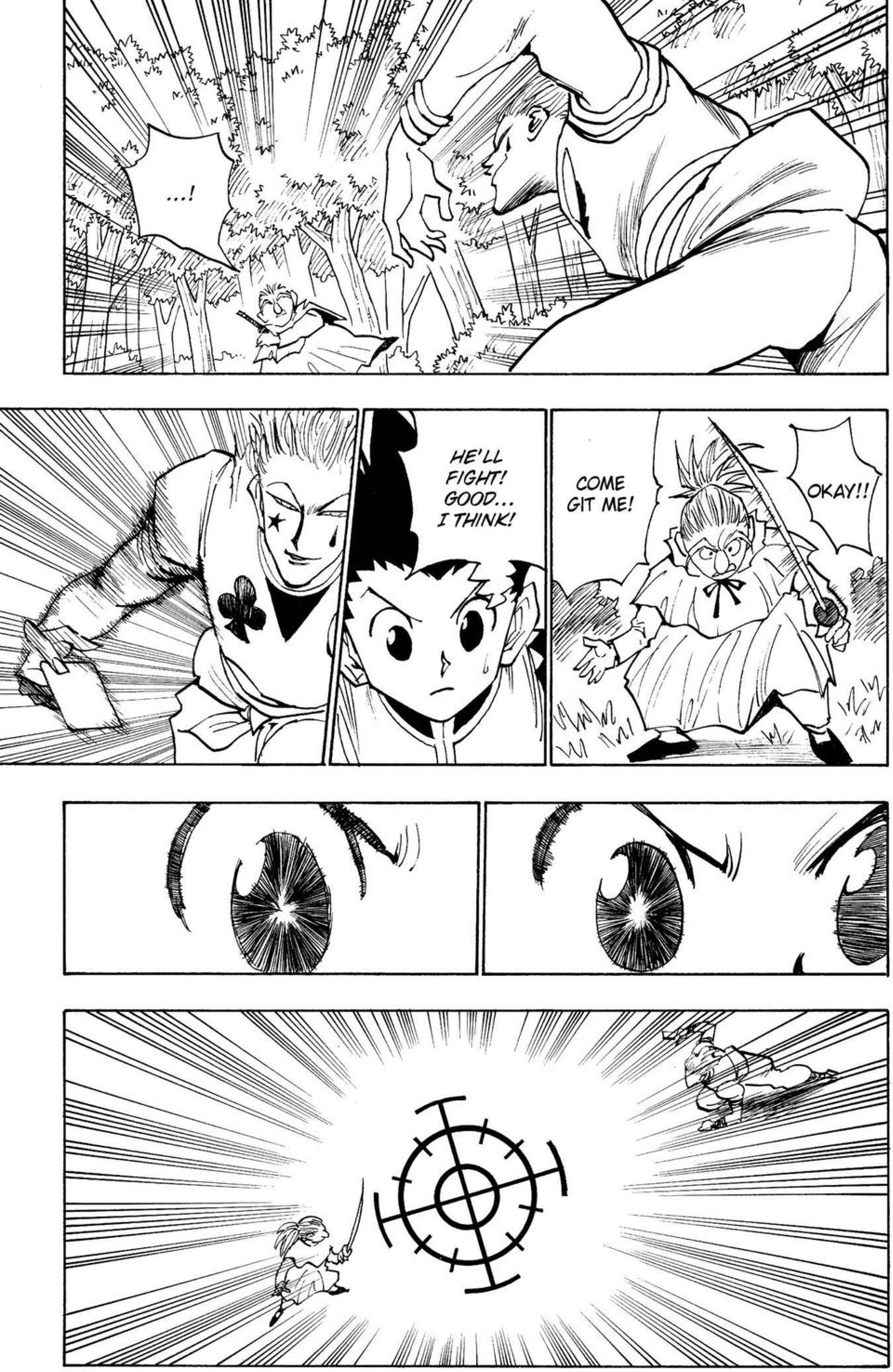

RUSTLE
SHOOOSH
HISOKA!!
FREDDY? NO...

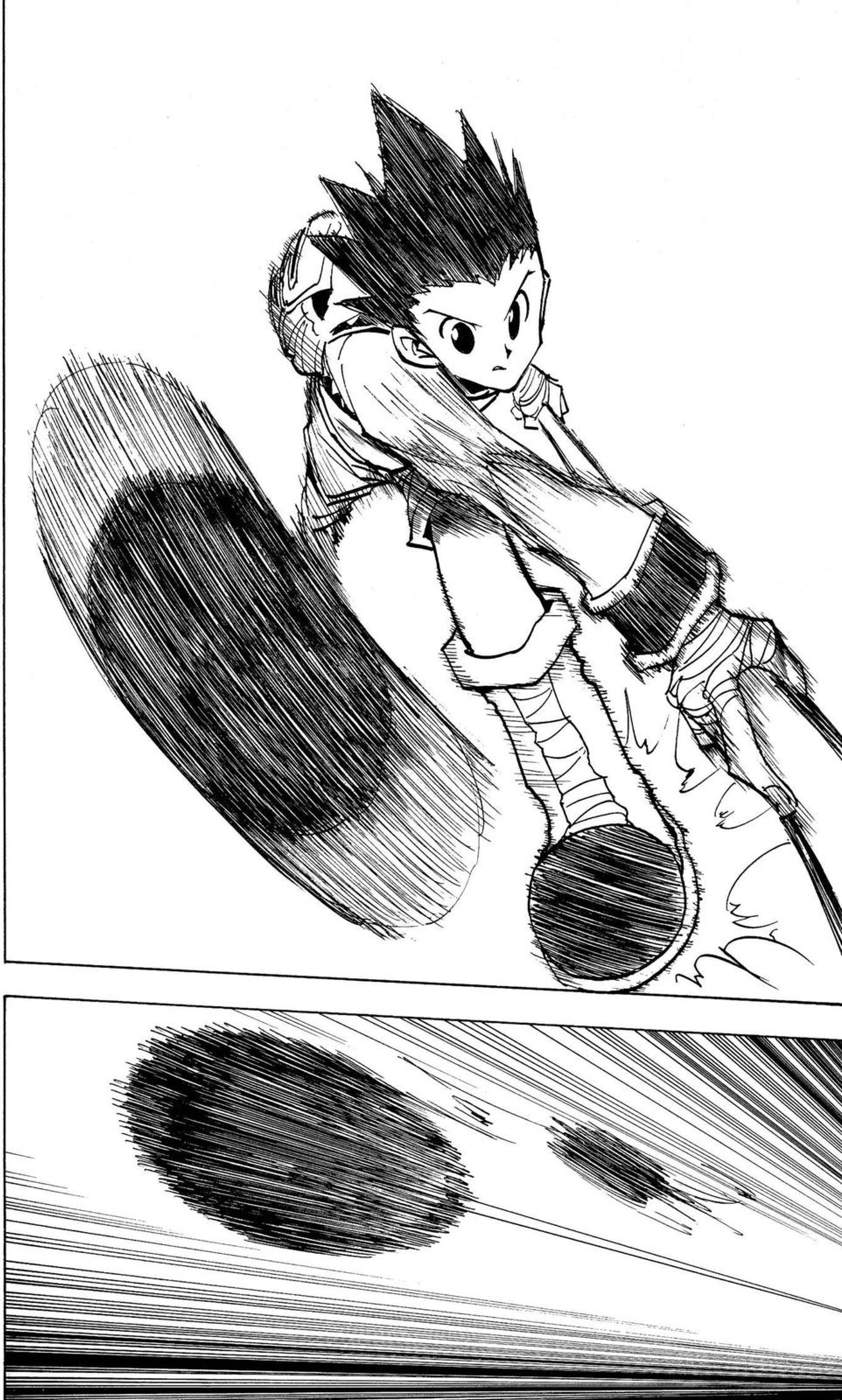
Chapter 28
A Huge Favor

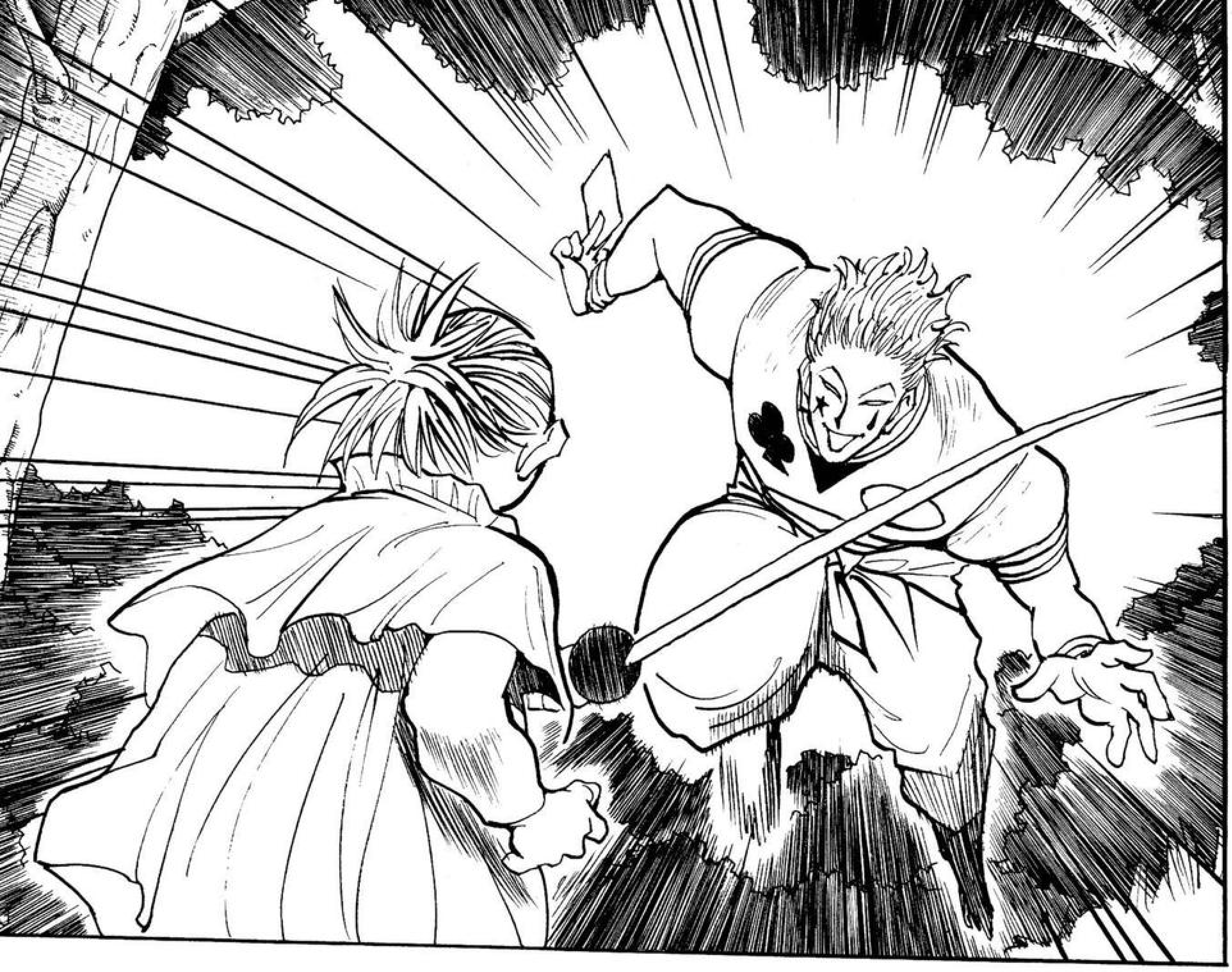
Chapter 28

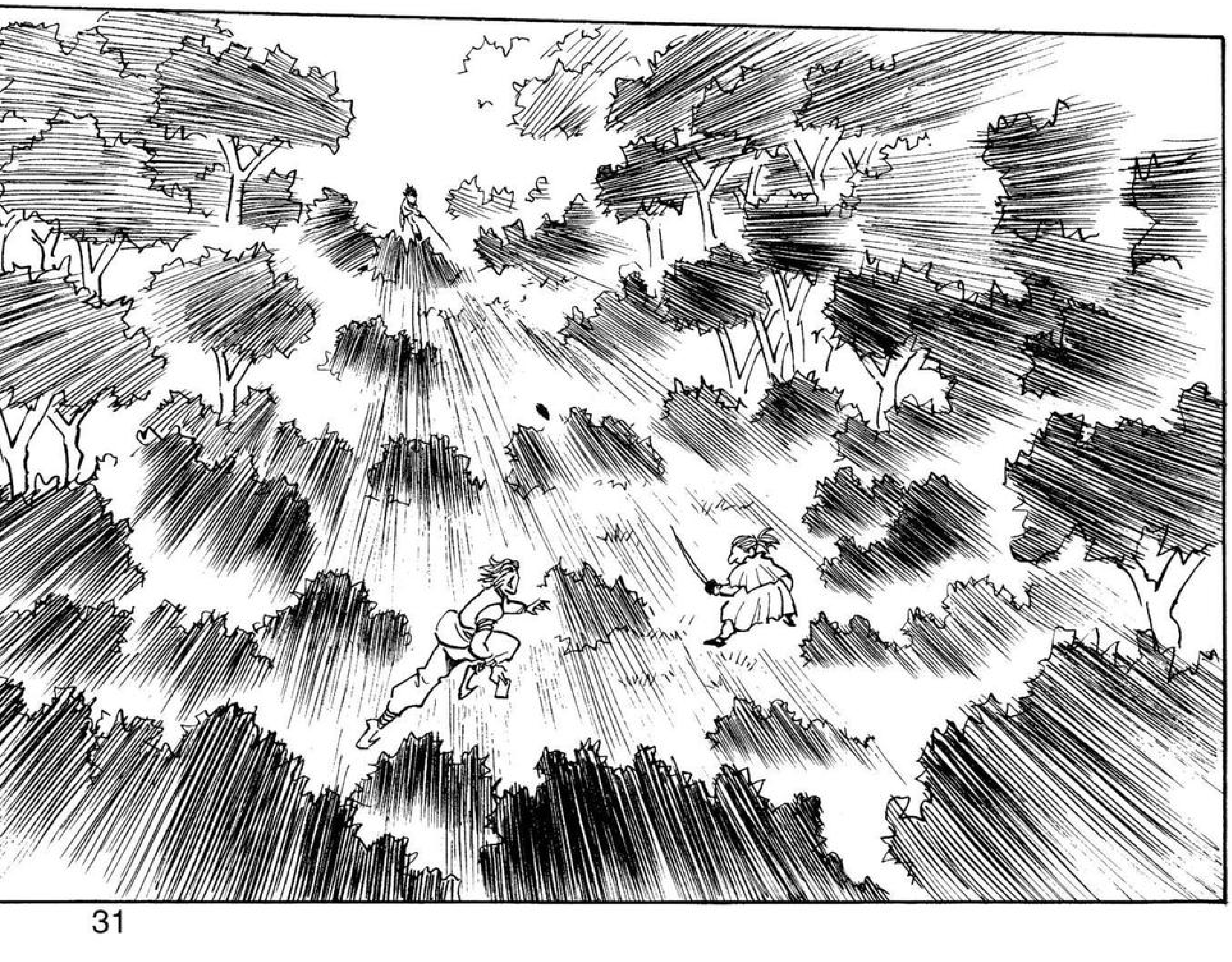
A Huge Favor

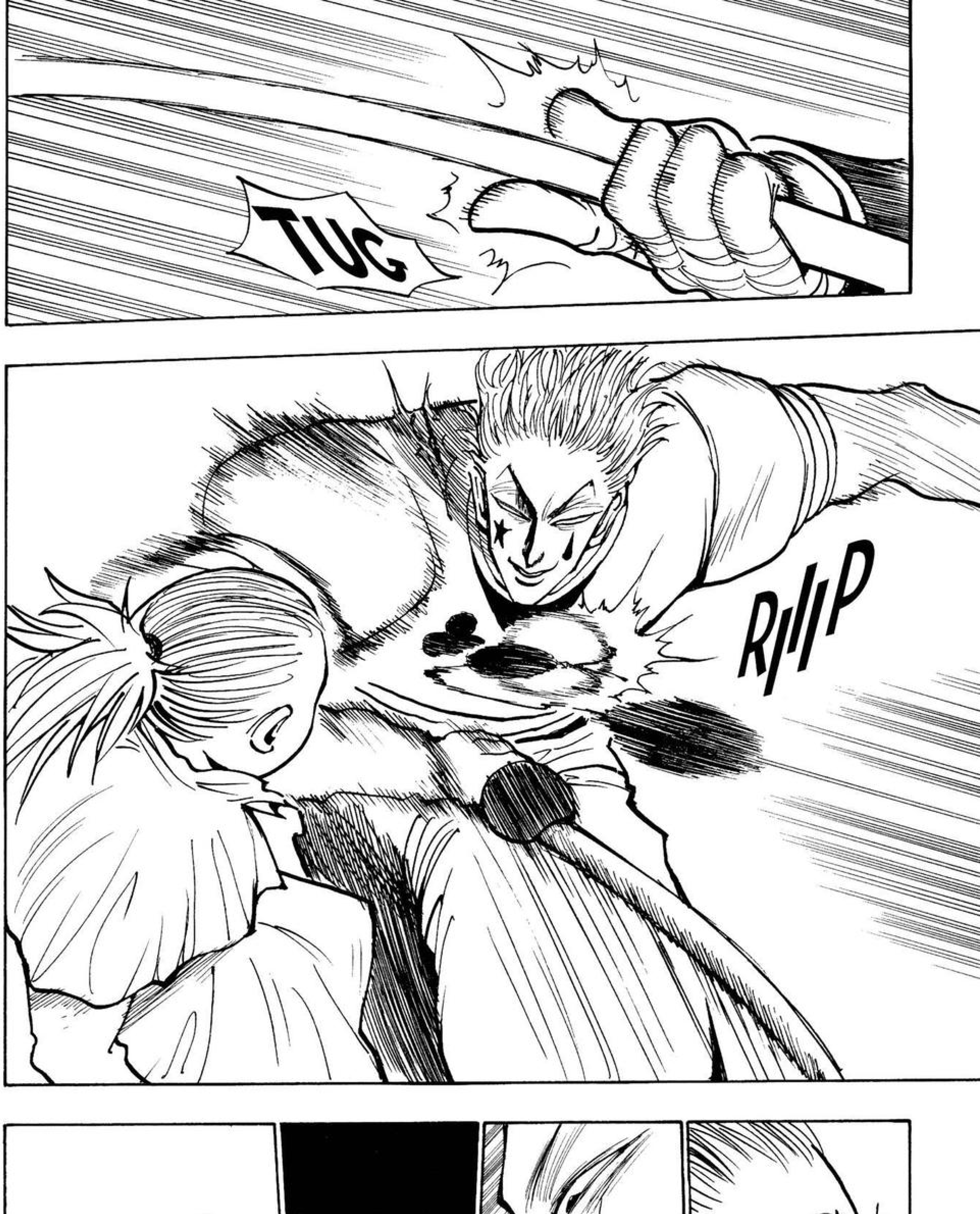

FWISH
FWISH
HERE WE GO!!!

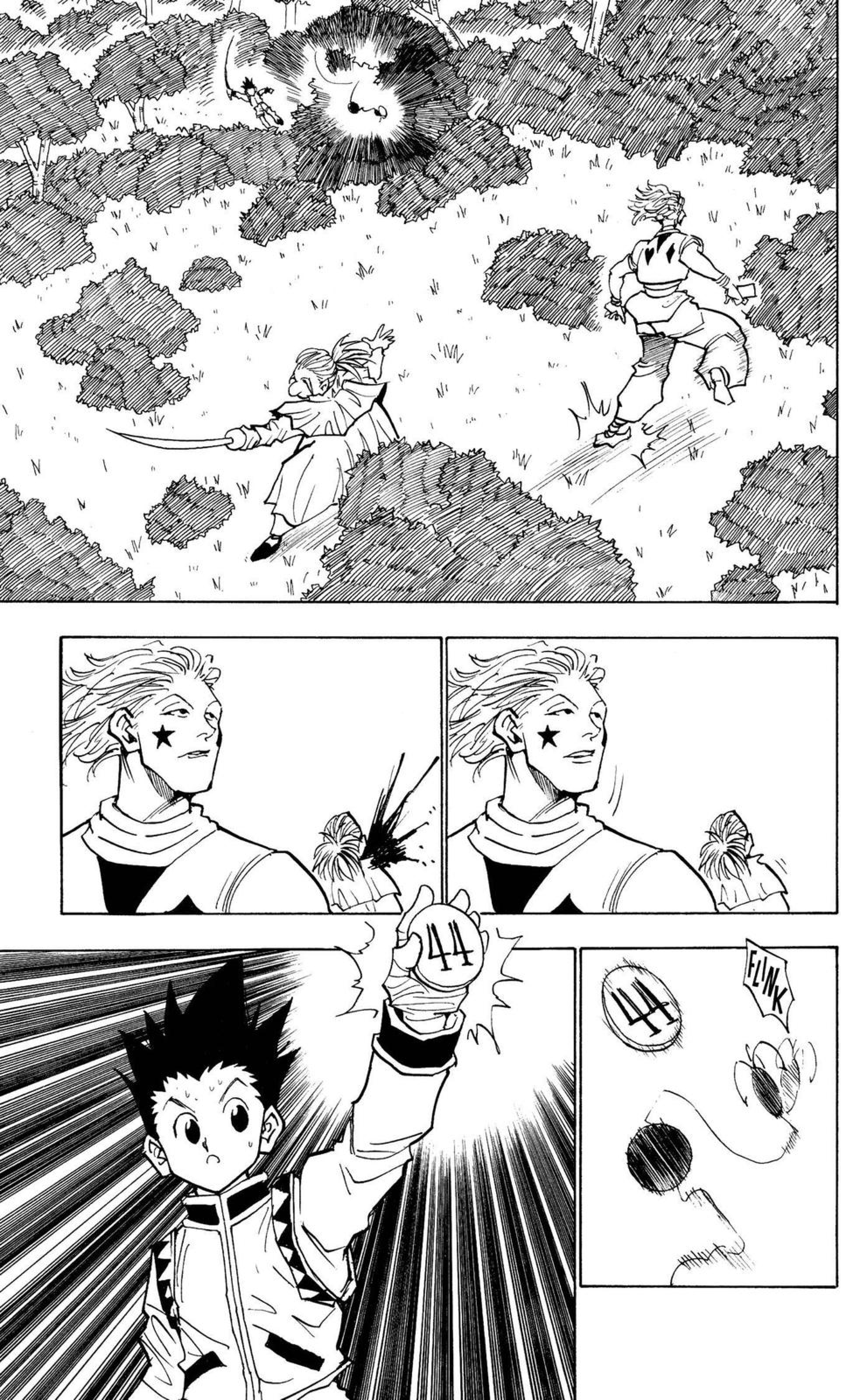

...!
OKAY!!
COME GIT ME!
HE'LL FIGHT! GOOD... I THINK!

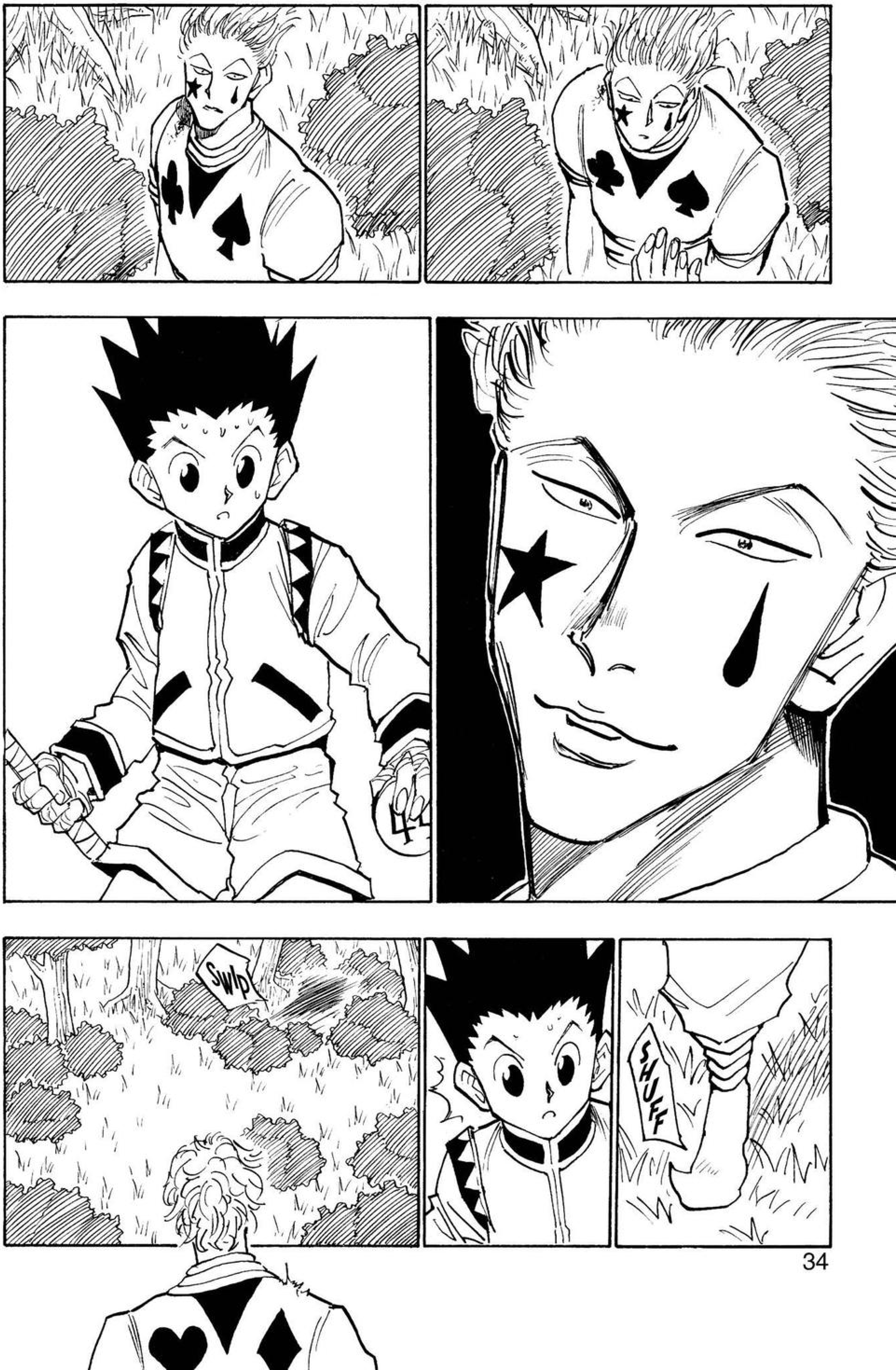




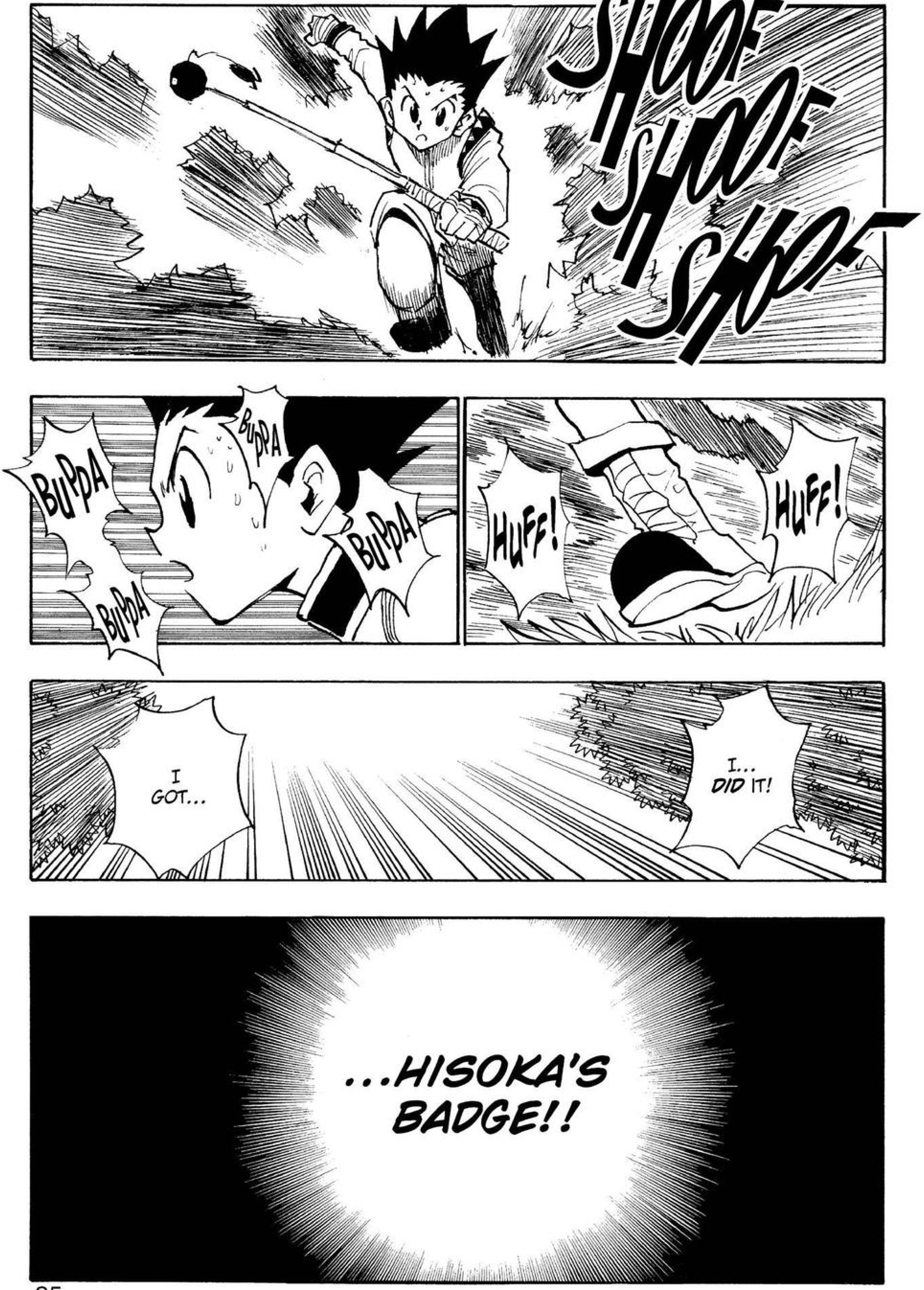


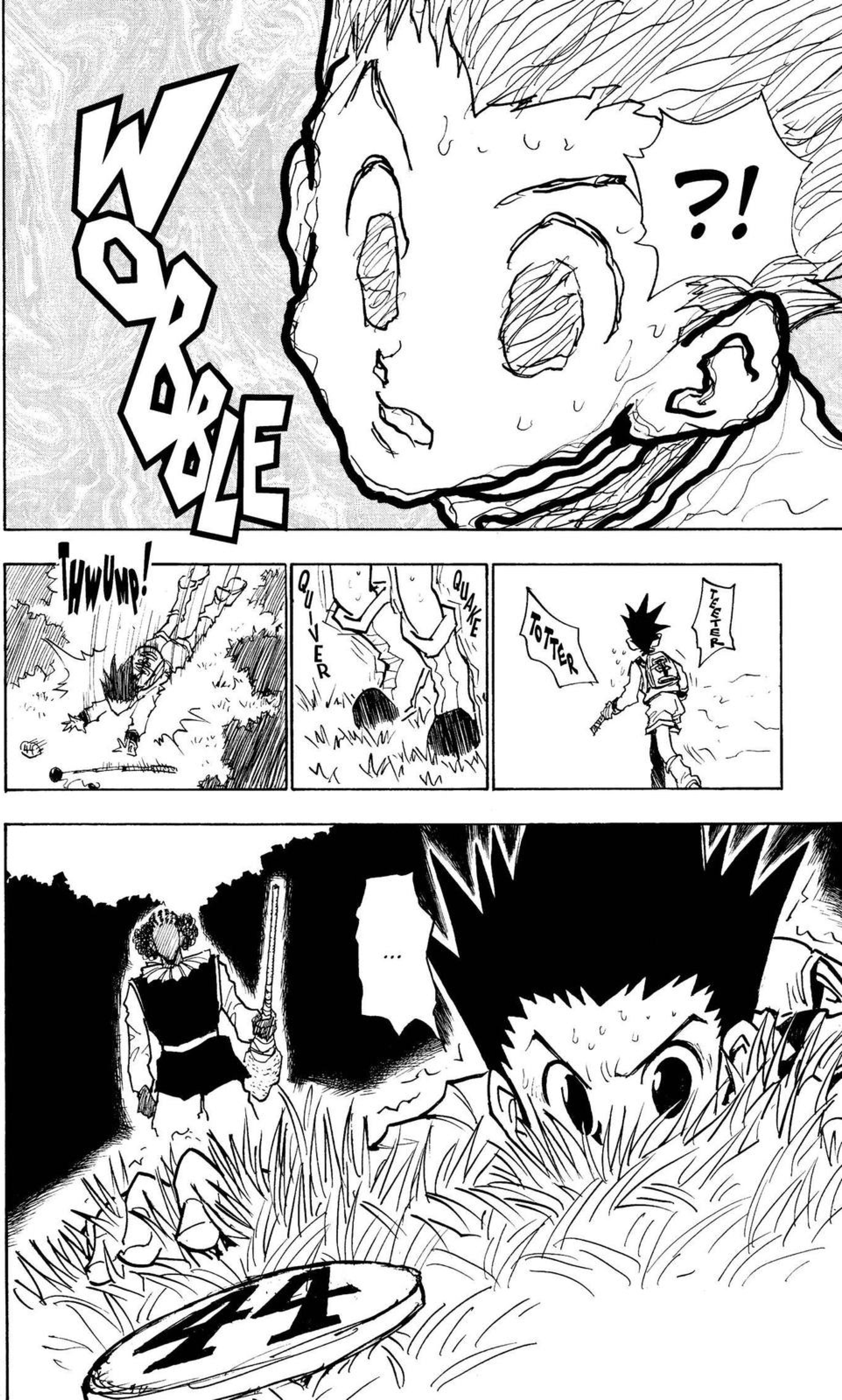

TUG
RIIIP

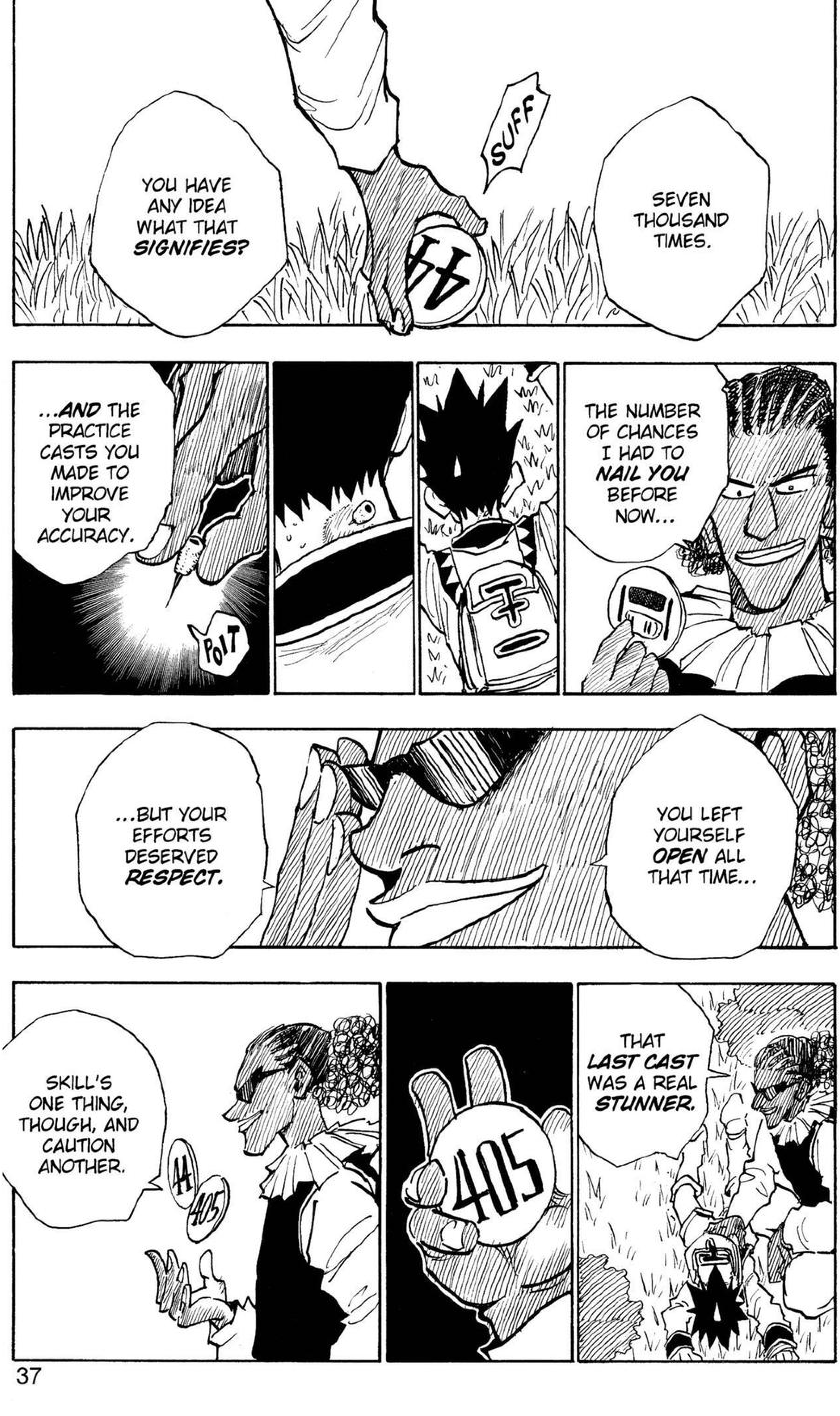

FLINK
44
44

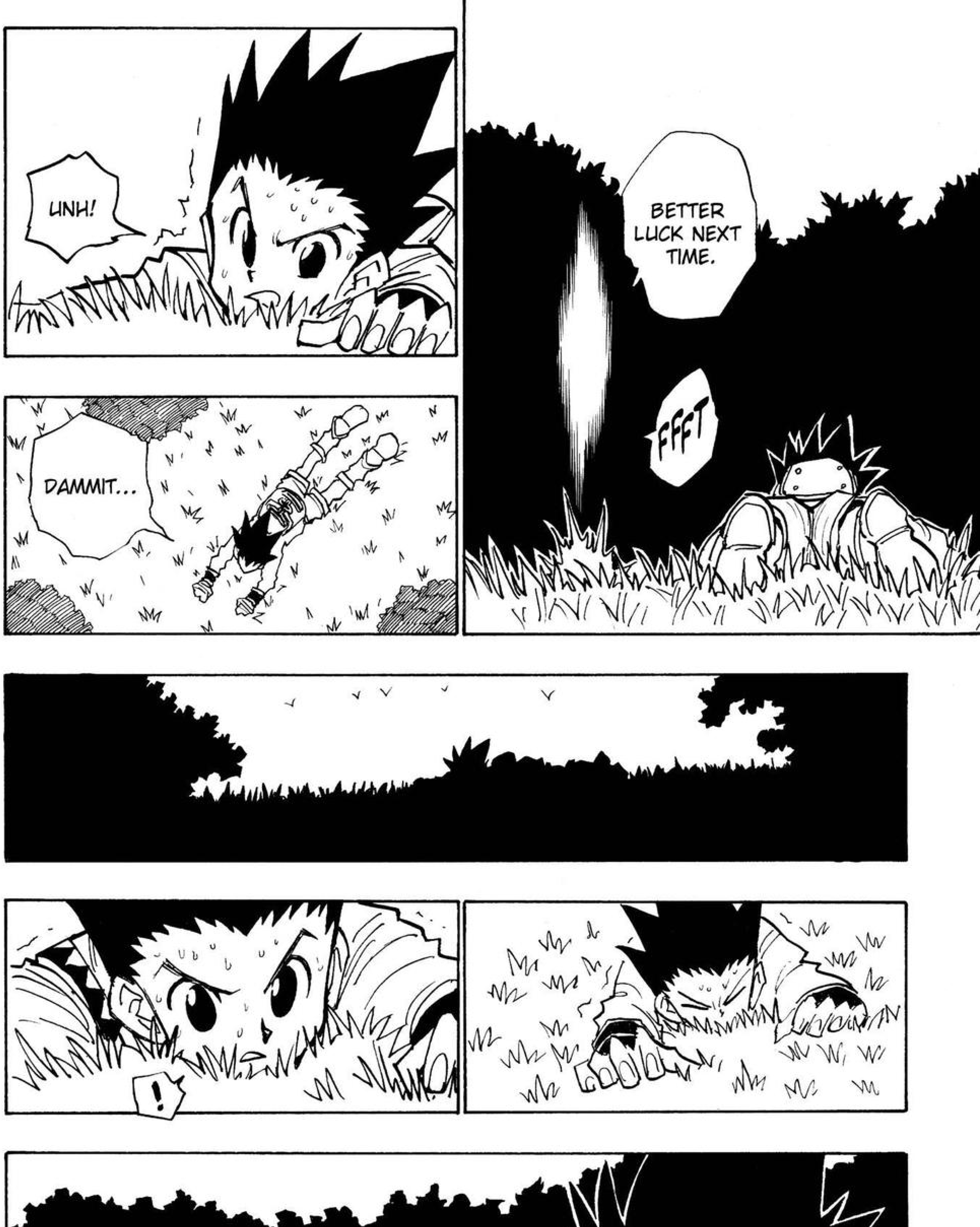

44
Swip
SHUFF

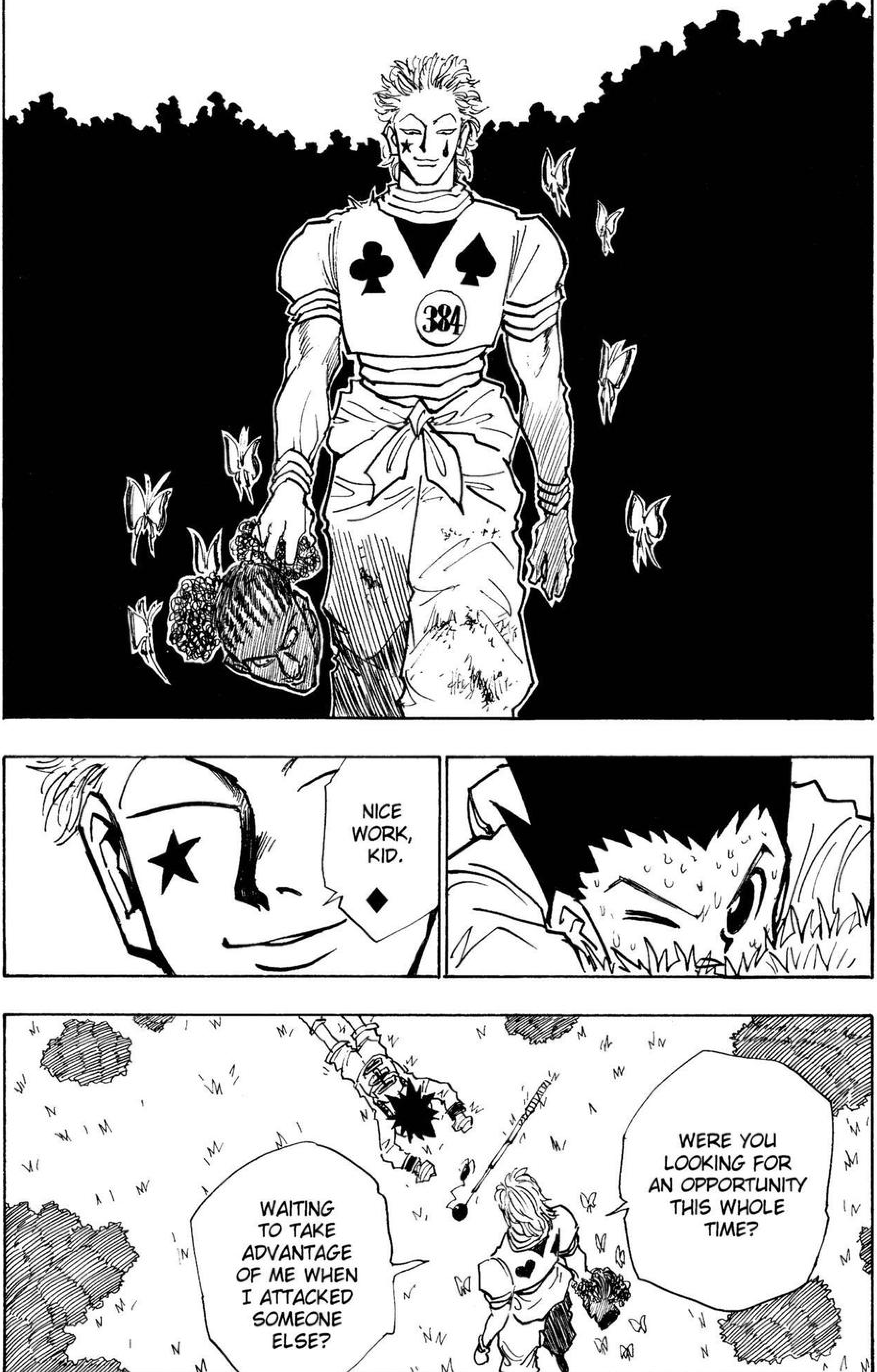
READ THIS WAY

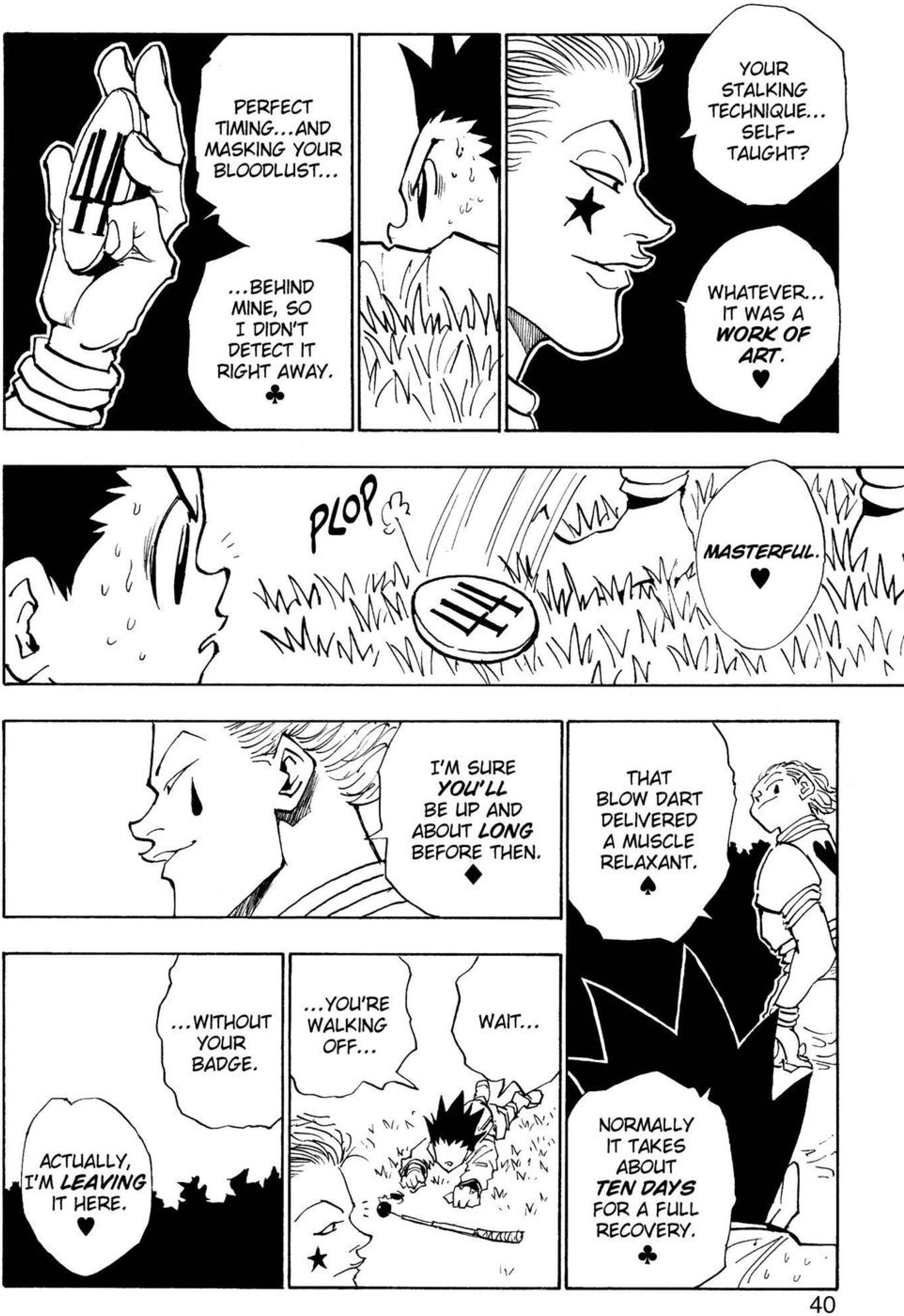

SHOOF
SHOOF
SHOOF
HUFF!
HUFF!
BUPPA
BUPPA
BUPPA
BUPPA
I... DID IT!
I GOT...
...HISOKA'S BADGE!!

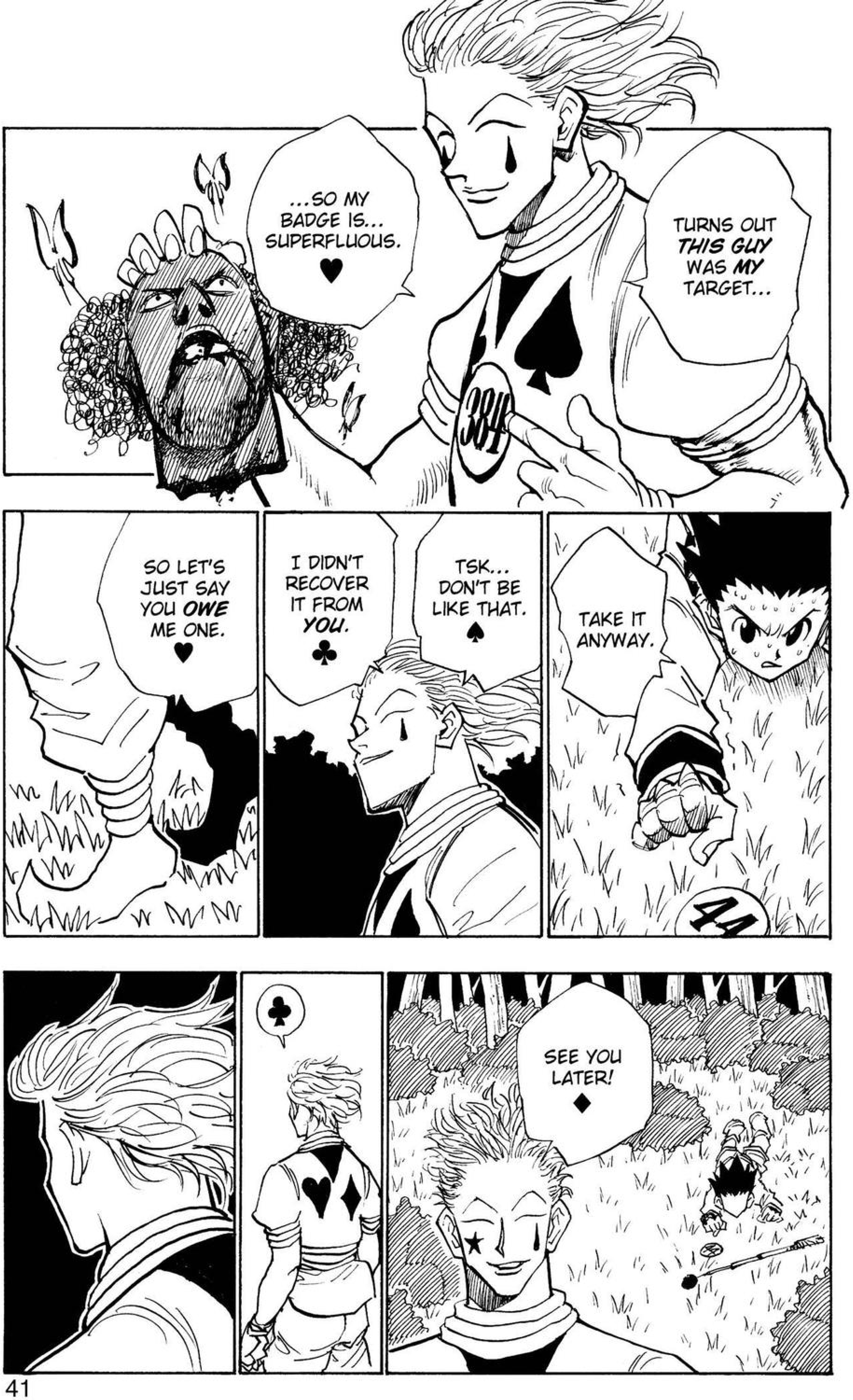

?!
WOBBLE
TEETER
TOTTER
QUAKE
QUIVER
THWUMP!
...
44

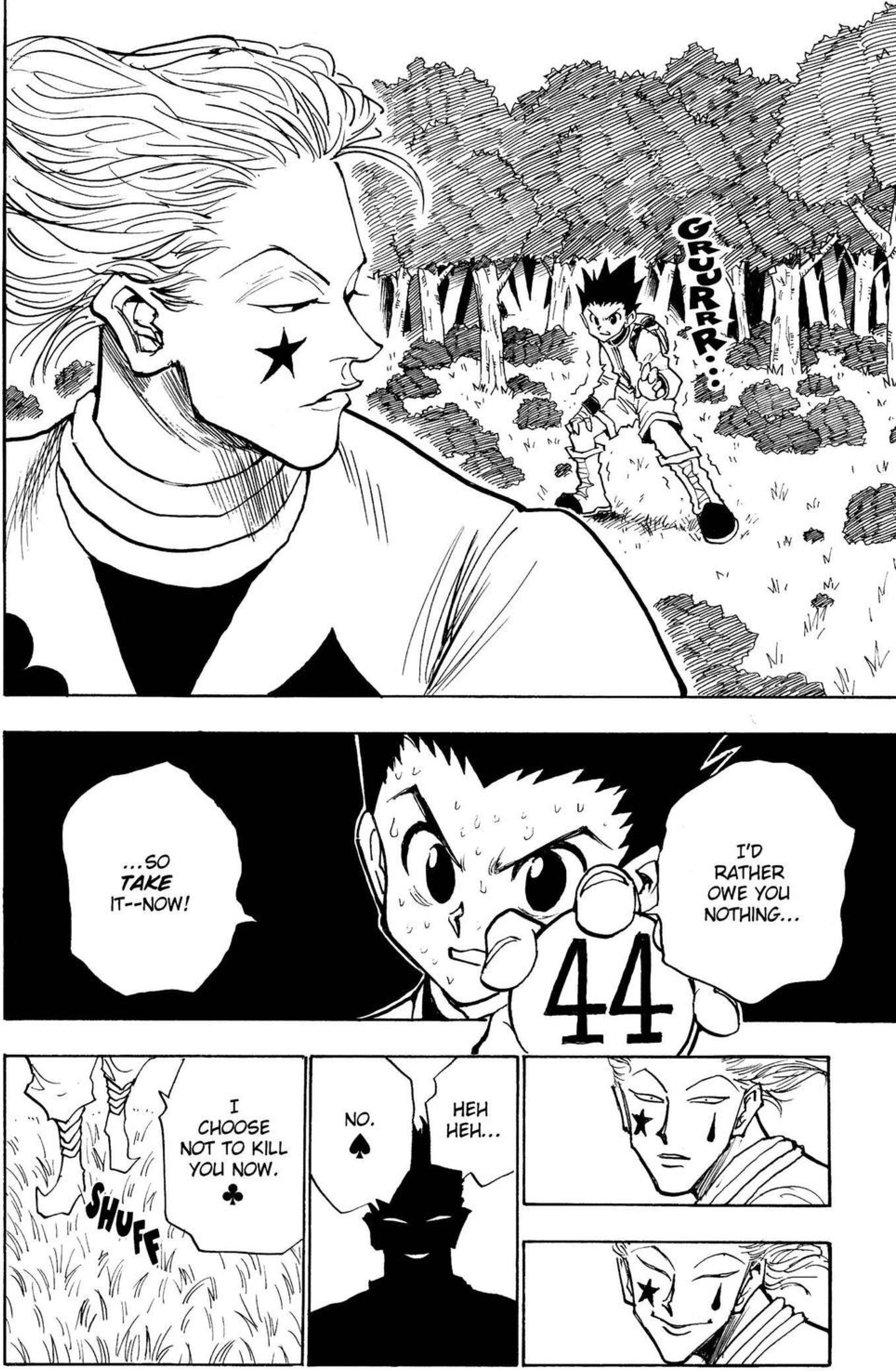

SEVEN THOUSAND TIMES.
SUFF
44
YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT THAT *SIGNIFIES?*
THE NUMBER OF CHANCES I HAD TO *NAIL YOU* BEFORE NOW...
...*AND* THE PRACTICE CASTS YOU MADE TO IMPROVE YOUR ACCURACY.
POIT
YOU LEFT YOURSELF *OPEN* ALL THAT TIME...
...BUT YOUR EFFORTS DESERVED *RESPECT.*
THAT *LAST CAST* WAS A REAL *STUNNER.*
405
SKILL'S ONE THING, THOUGH, AND CAUTION ANOTHER.
44
405

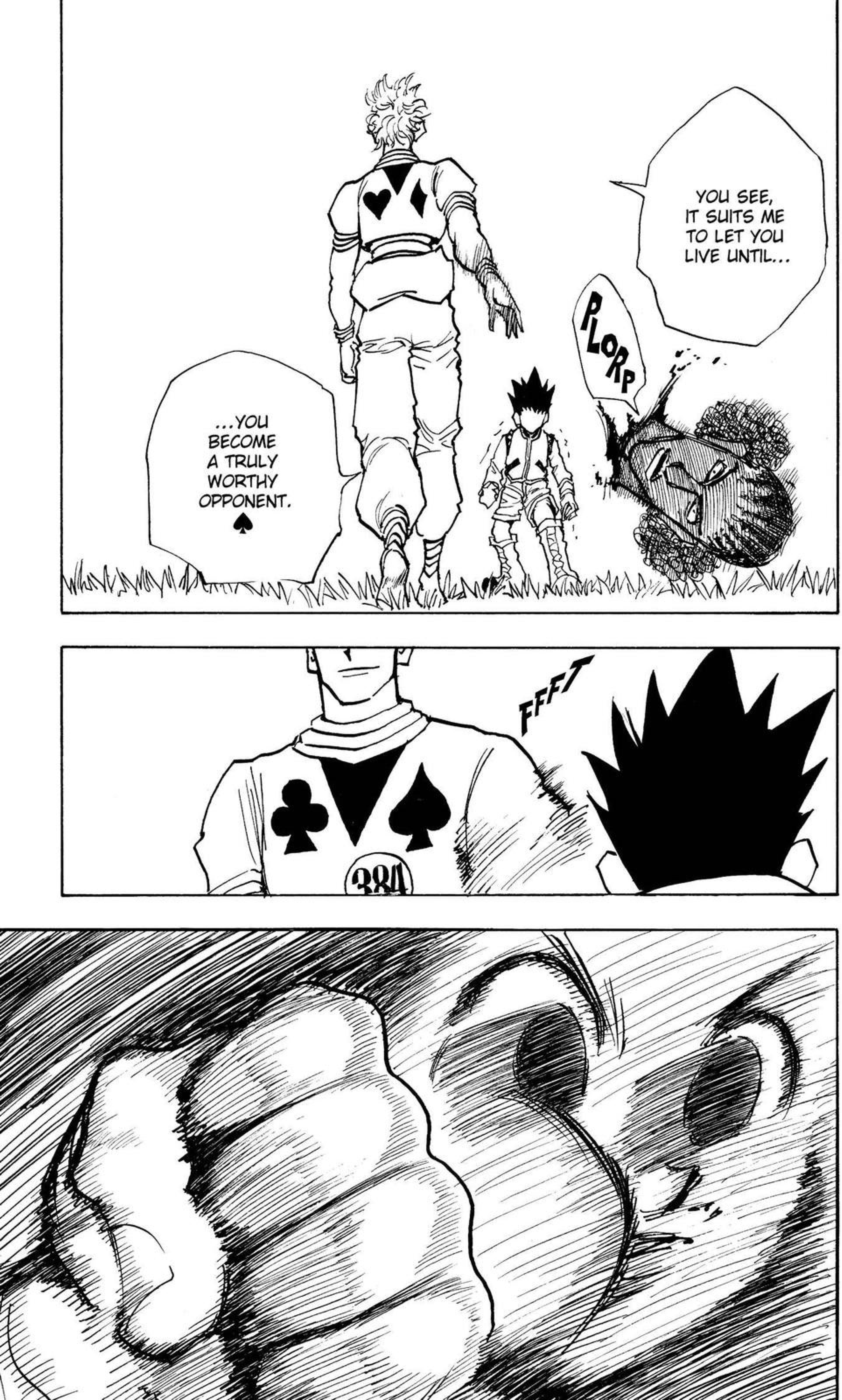

BETTER LUCK NEXT TIME.
FFFT
UNH!
DAMMIT…
!
SHUFF
SHUFF

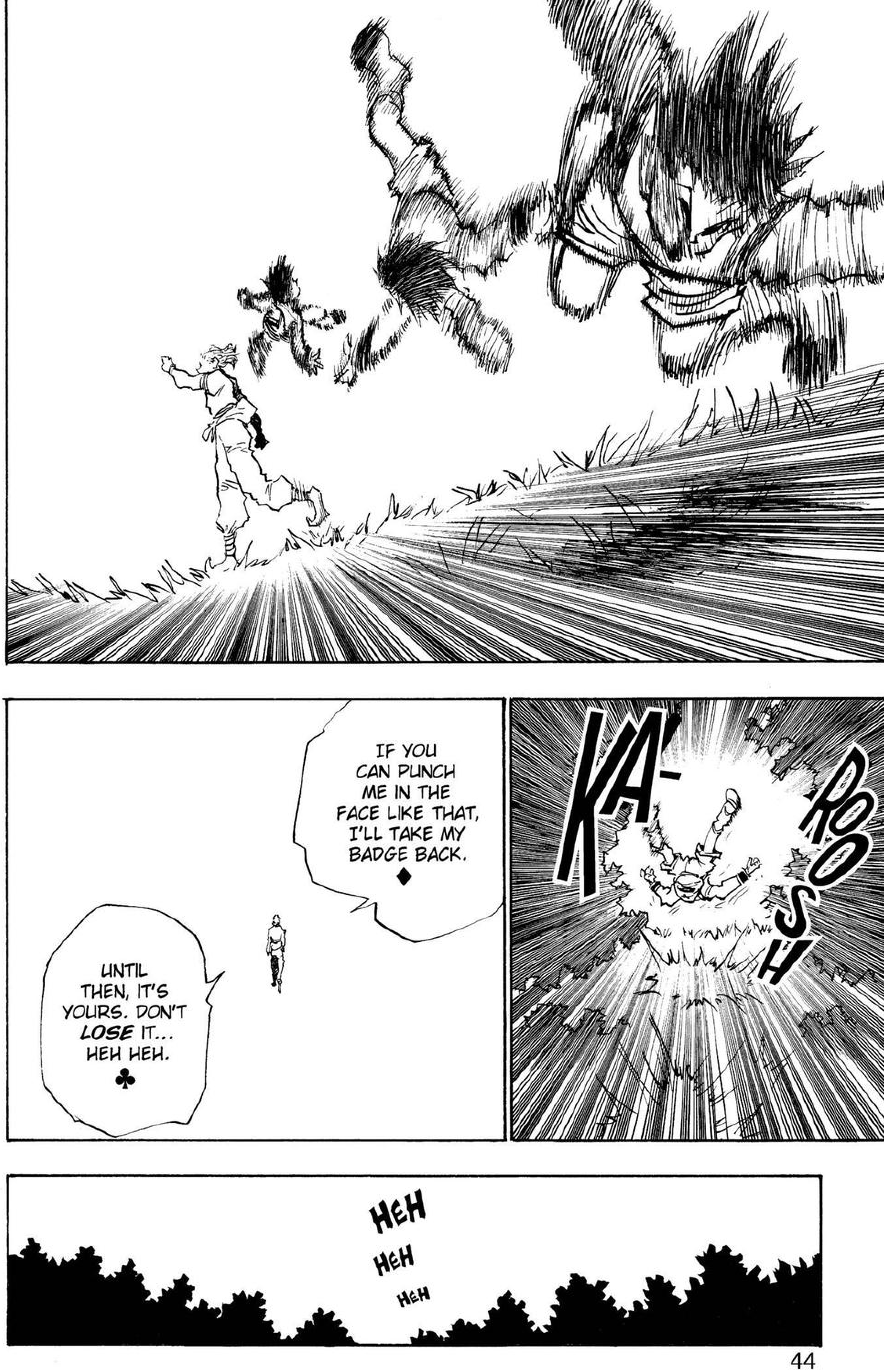

384
NICE WORK, KID. ♦
WERE YOU LOOKING FOR AN OPPORTUNITY THIS WHOLE TIME?
WAITING TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ME WHEN I ATTACKED SOMEONE ELSE?

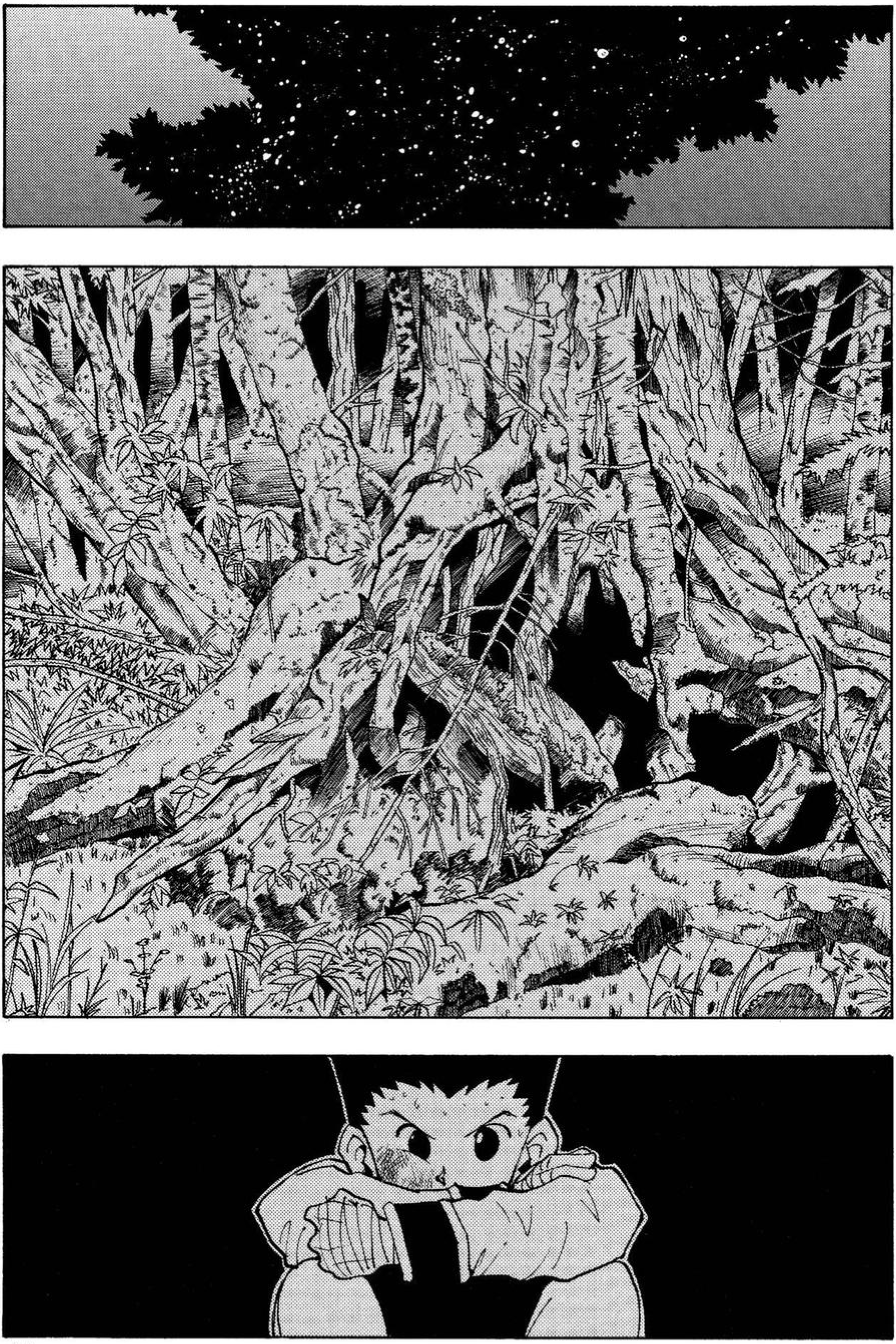

YOUR STALKING TECHNIQUE... SELF-TAUGHT?
WHATEVER... IT WAS A ***WORK OF ART***. ♥
PERFECT TIMING...AND MASKING YOUR BLOODLUST...
...BEHIND MINE, SO I DIDN'T DETECT IT RIGHT AWAY. ♣
MASTERFUL. ♥
PLOP
44
THAT BLOW DART DELIVERED A MUSCLE RELAXANT. ♠
NORMALLY IT TAKES ABOUT ***TEN DAYS*** FOR A FULL RECOVERY. ♣
I'M SURE ***YOU'LL*** BE UP AND ABOUT ***LONG*** BEFORE THEN. ♦
WAIT...
...YOU'RE WALKING OFF...
...WITHOUT YOUR BADGE.
ACTUALLY, I'M ***LEAVING*** IT HERE. ♥

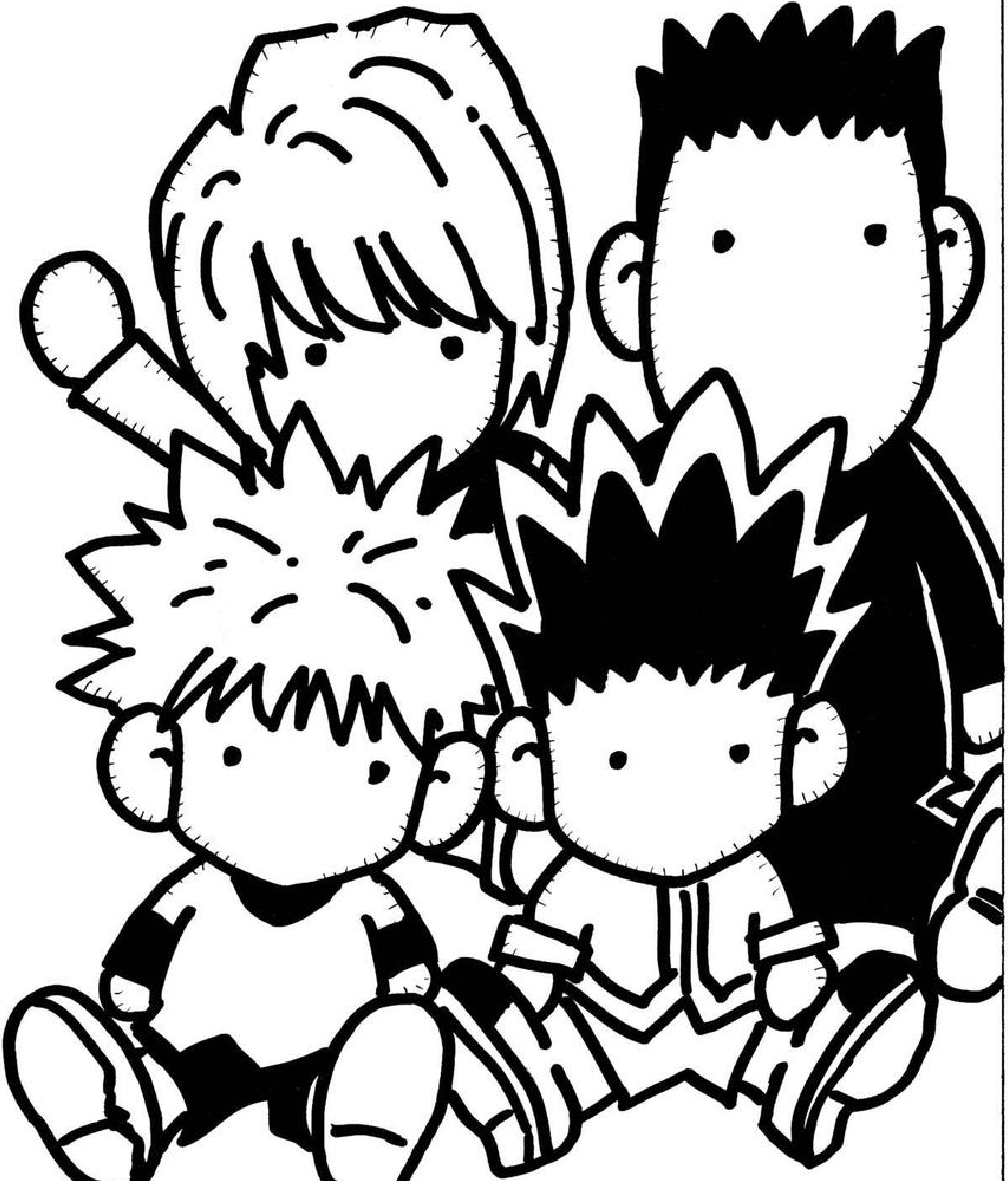

TURNS OUT THIS GUY WAS MY TARGET...
...SO MY BADGE IS... SUPERFLUOUS. ♥
384
TAKE IT ANYWAY.
44
TSK... DON'T BE LIKE THAT. ♠
I DIDN'T RECOVER IT FROM YOU. ♣
SO LET'S JUST SAY YOU OWE ME ONE. ♥
SEE YOU LATER! ♦
♣


GRUURRR...
I'D RATHER OWE YOU NOTHING...
...SO *TAKE* IT--NOW!
44
HEH HEH...
NO. ♠
I CHOOSE NOT TO KILL YOU NOW. ♣
SHUFF


YOU SEE, IT SUITS ME TO LET YOU LIVE UNTIL…
PLORP
…YOU BECOME A TRULY WORTHY OPPONENT. ♠
FFFT
384

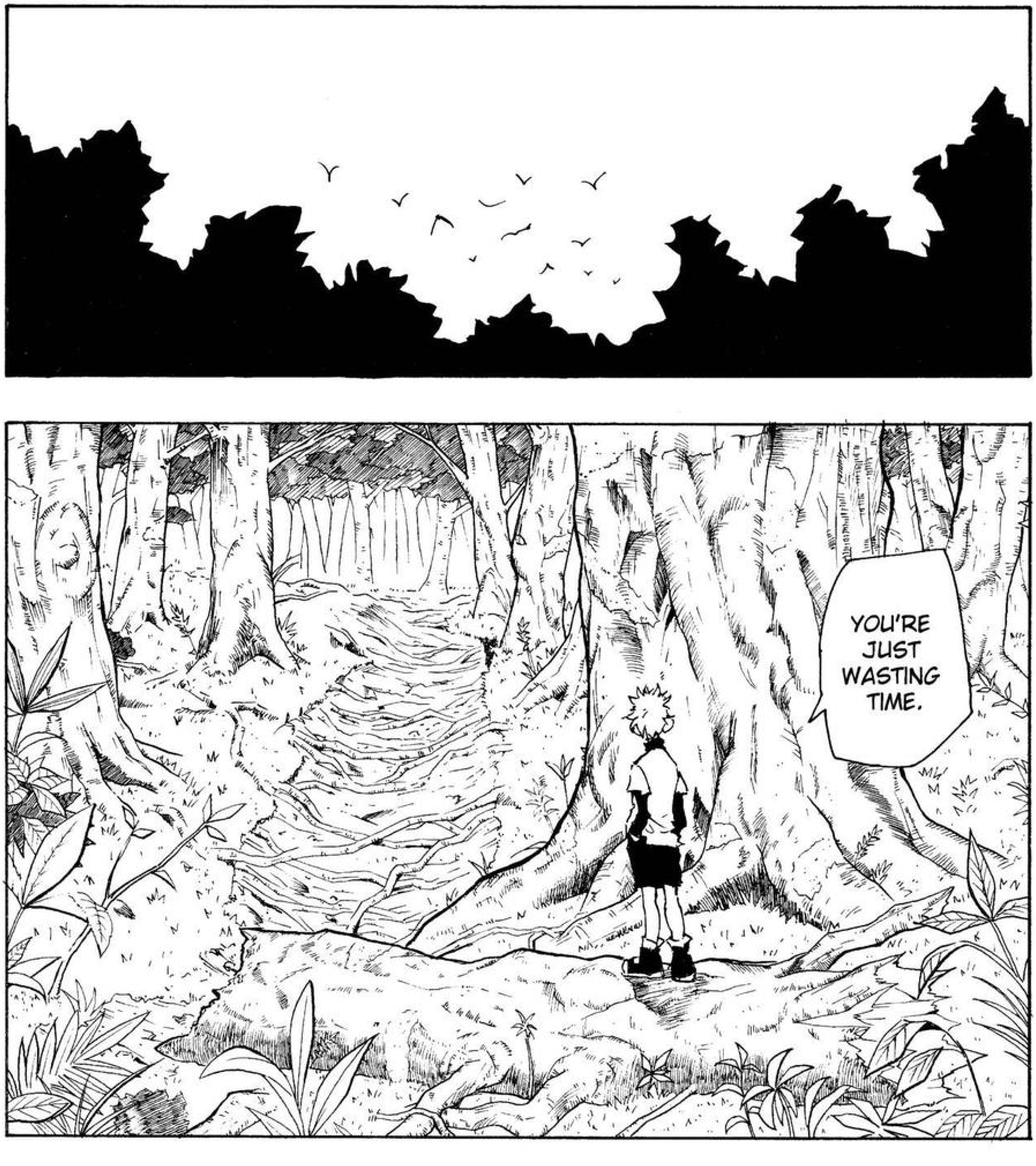

KA-ROOSH
IF YOU CAN PUNCH ME IN THE FACE LIKE THAT, I'LL TAKE MY BADGE BACK. ◆
UNTIL THEN, IT'S YOURS. DON'T **LOSE** IT... HEH HEH. ♣
HEH HEH HEH

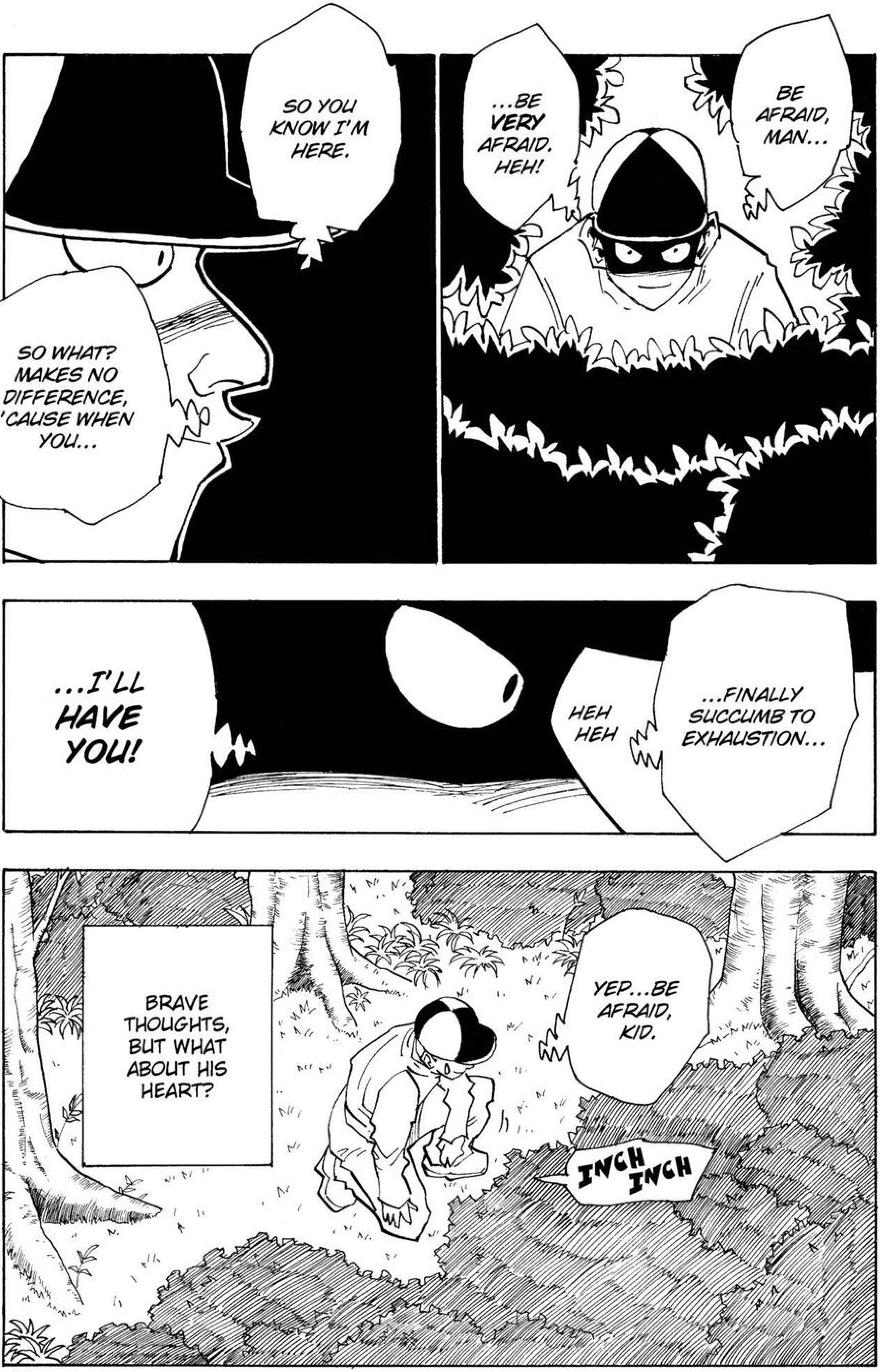


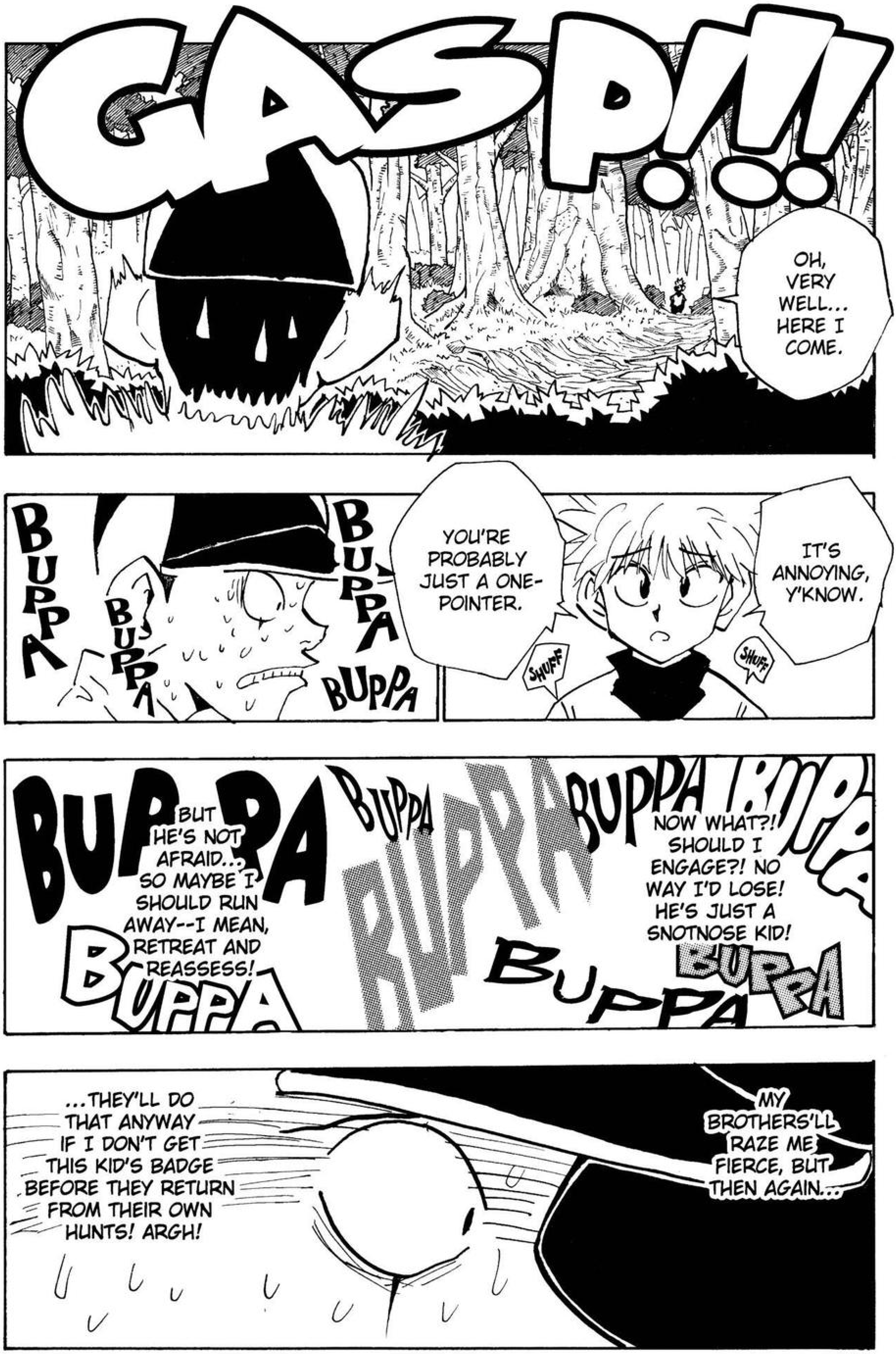


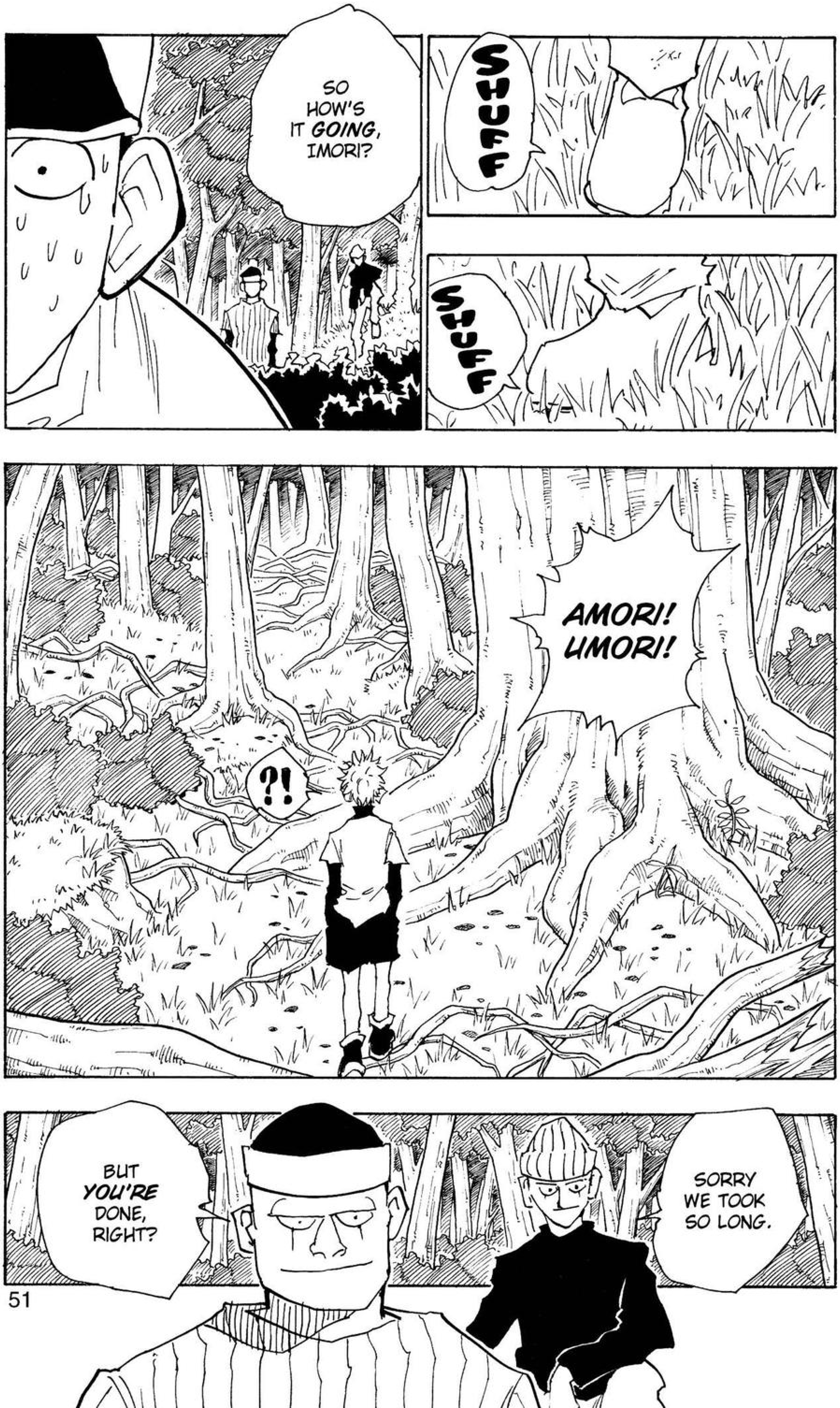
Chapter 29

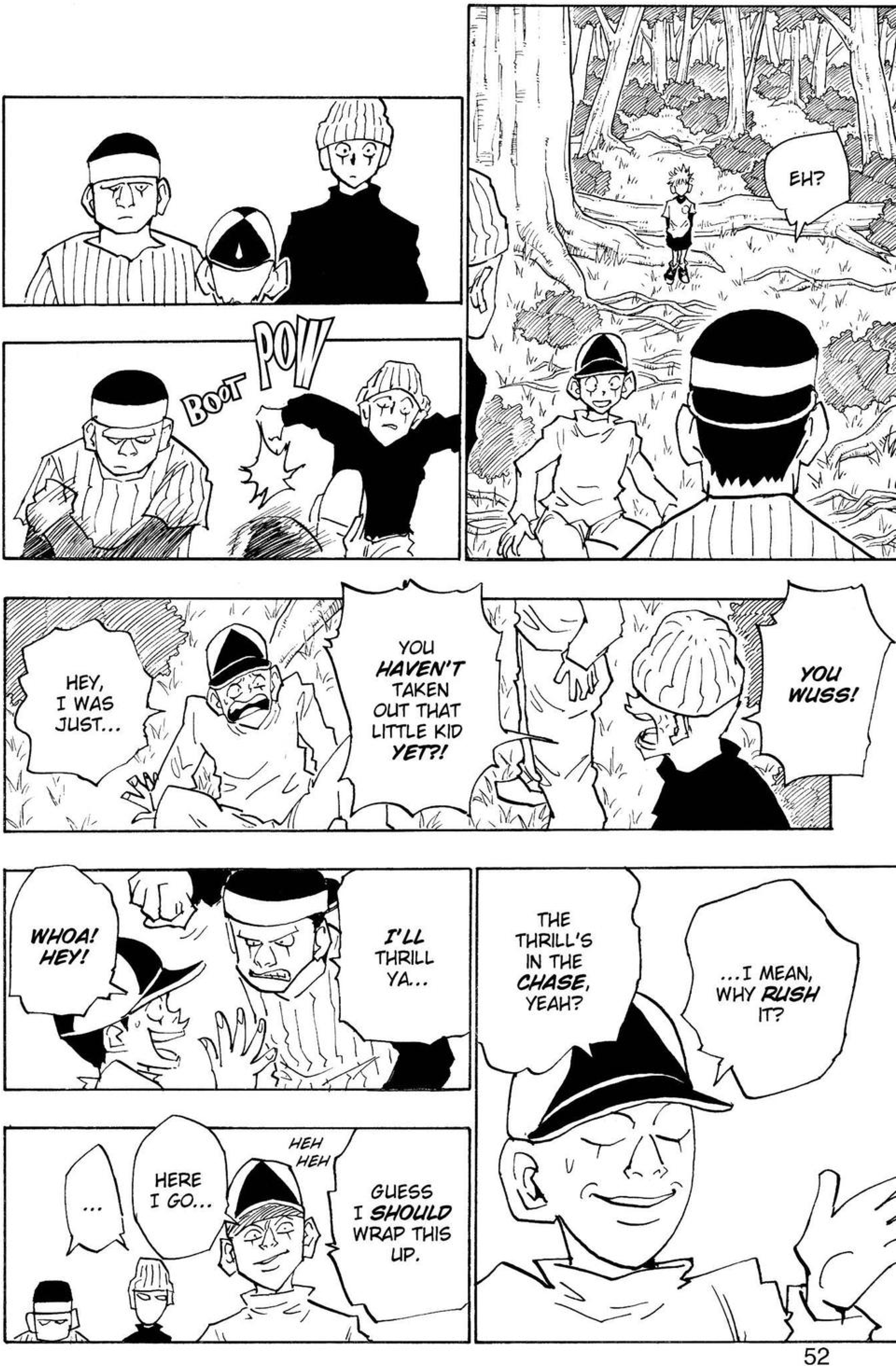
Killua's Case

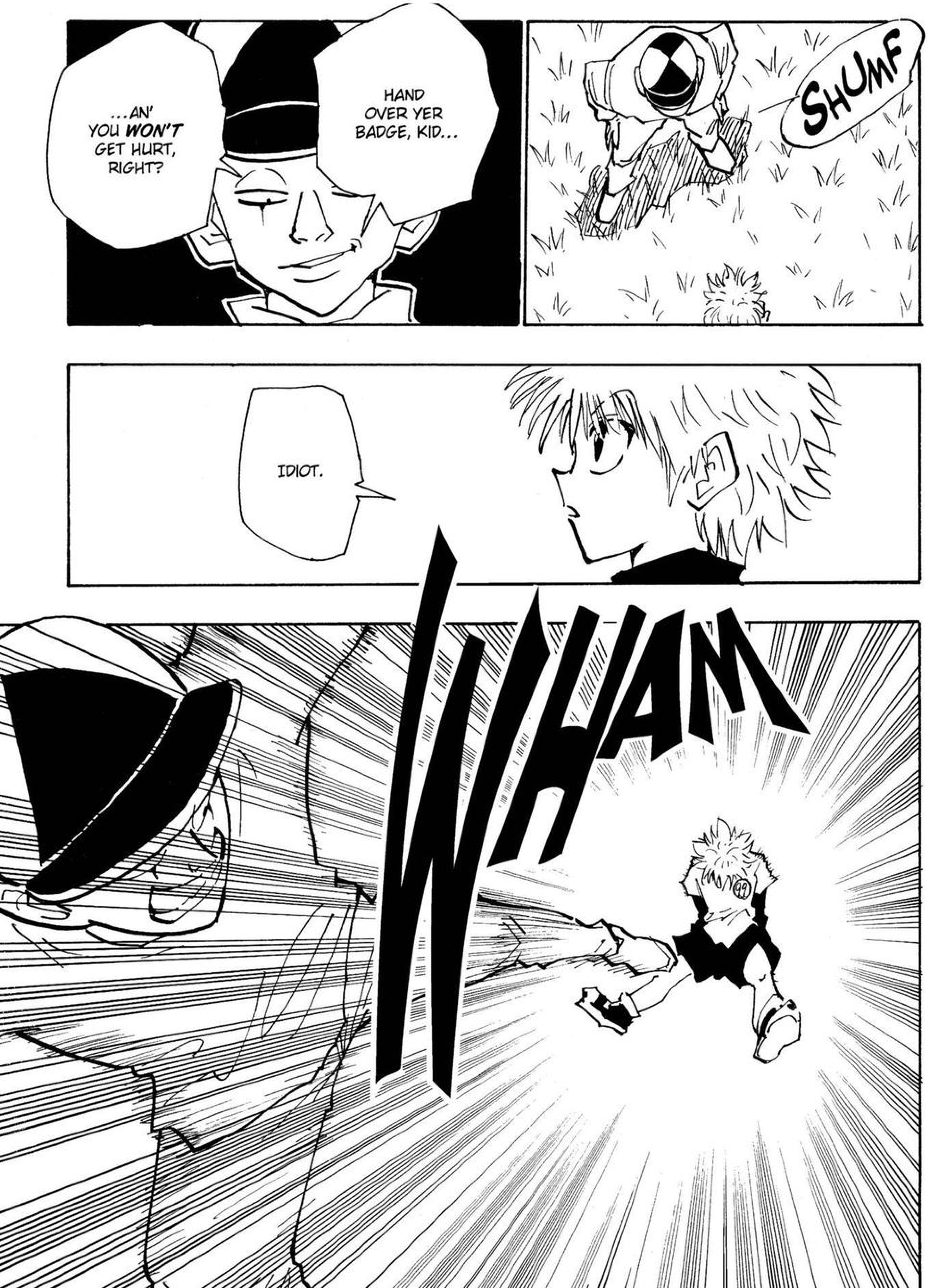

YOU'RE JUST WASTING TIME.
FOLLOW ME FOREVER...
...YOU STILL WON'T CATCH ME OUT.
HEH HEH HEH...

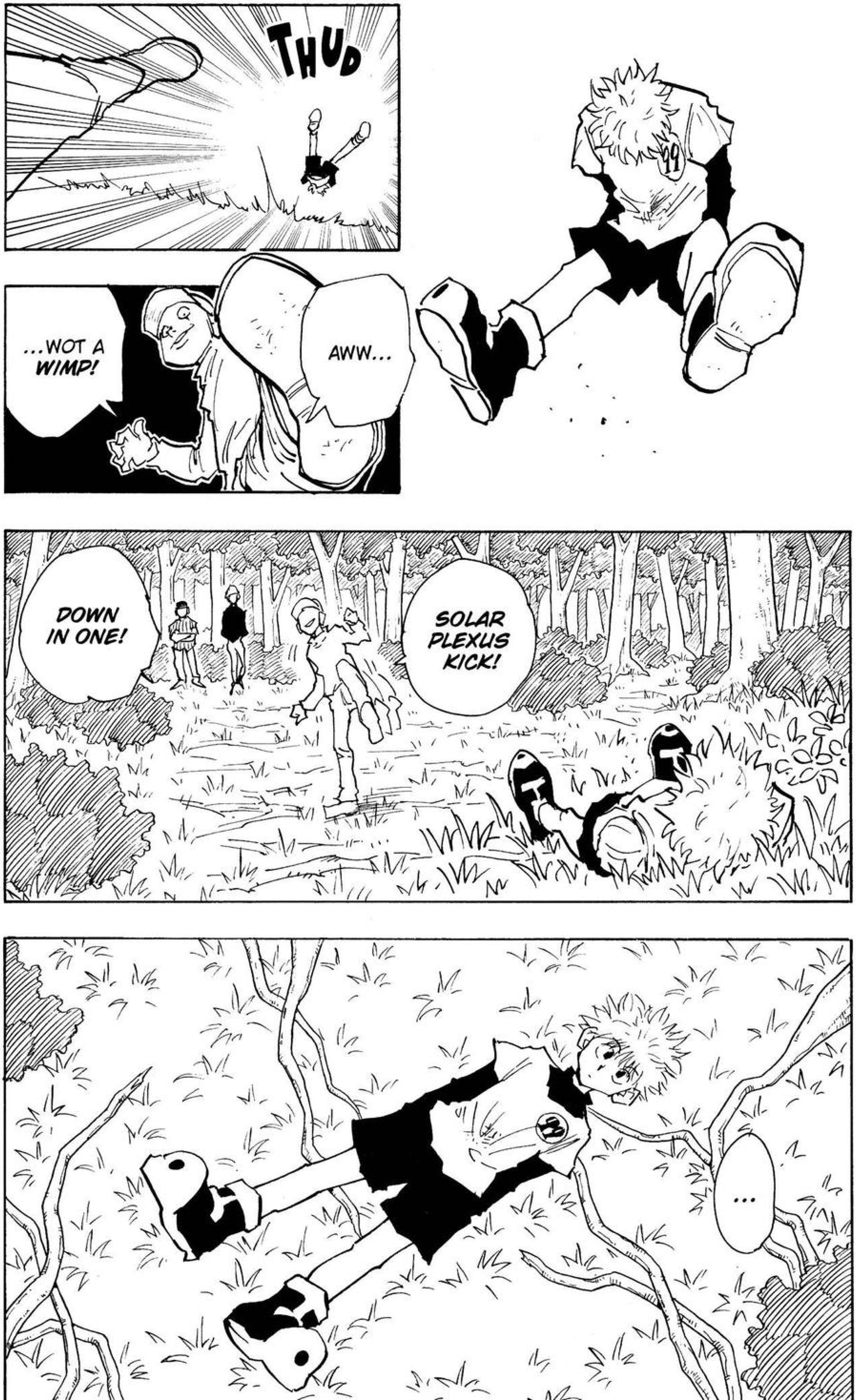

BE AFRAID, MAN…
…BE **VERY** AFRAID. HEH!
SO YOU KNOW I'M HERE.
SO WHAT? MAKES NO DIFFERENCE, 'CAUSE WHEN YOU…
…FINALLY SUCCUMB TO EXHAUSTION…
HEH HEH
…I'LL **HAVE YOU!**
YEP…BE AFRAID, KID.
INCH INCH
BRAVE THOUGHTS, BUT WHAT ABOUT HIS HEART?


GASP!!
OH, VERY WELL... HERE I COME.
IT'S ANNOYING, Y'KNOW.
SHUFF
SHUFF
YOU'RE PROBABLY JUST A ONE-POINTER.
BUPPA BUPPA BUPPA BUPPA BUPPA
BUPPA BUPPA BUPPA BUPPA BUPPA BUPPA BUPPA BUPPA
NOW WHAT?! SHOULD I ENGAGE?! NO WAY I'D LOSE! HE'S JUST A SNOTNOSE KID!
BUT HE'S NOT AFRAID... SO MAYBE I SHOULD RUN AWAY--I MEAN, RETREAT AND REASSESS!
MY BROTHERS'LL RAZE ME FIERCE, BUT THEN AGAIN...
...THEY'LL DO THAT ANYWAY IF I DON'T GET THIS KID'S BADGE BEFORE THEY RETURN FROM THEIR OWN HUNTS! ARGH!

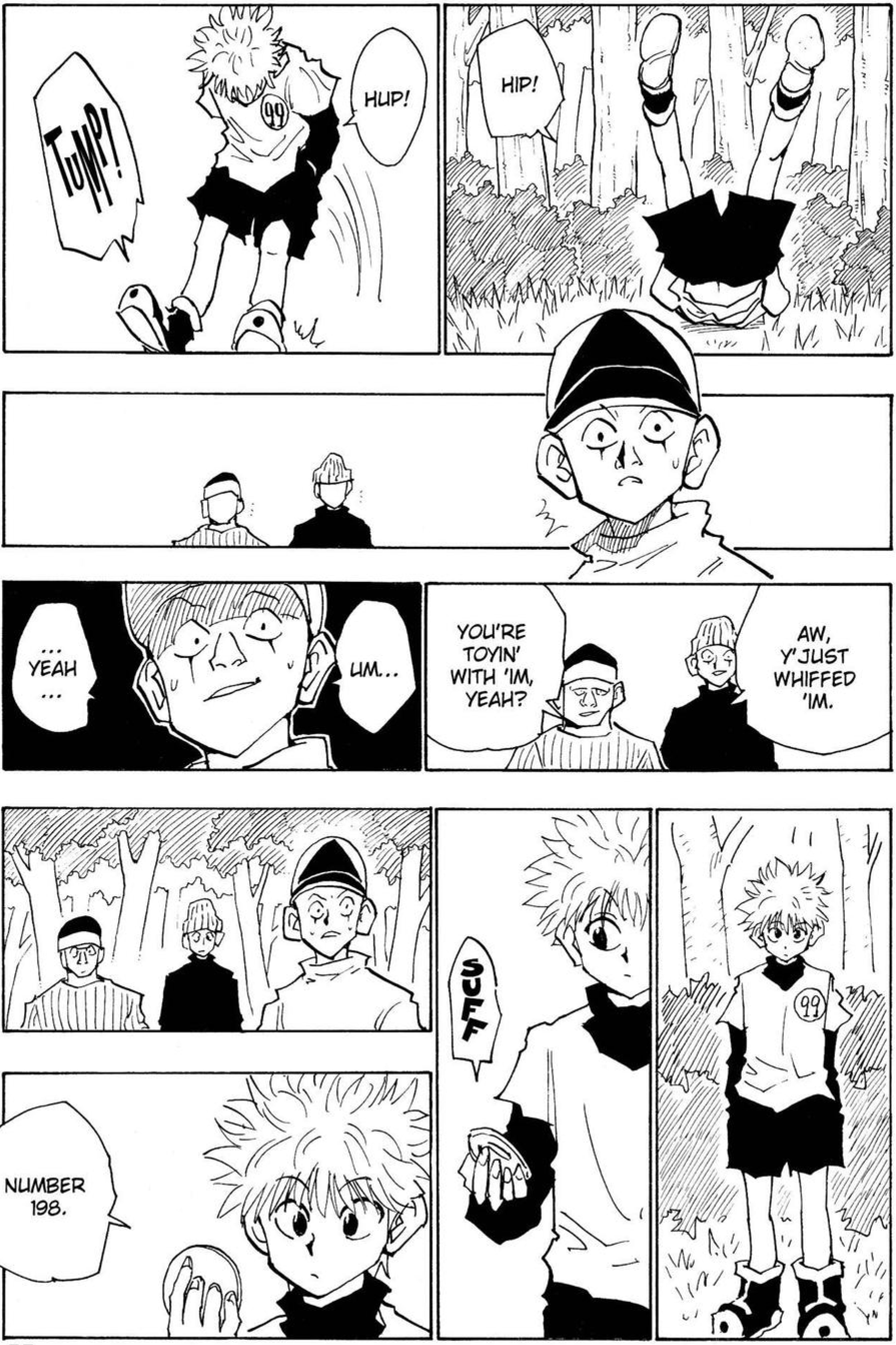

SHUFF
SHUFF
SO HOW'S IT *GOING*, IMORI?
AMORI! UMORI!
?!
SORRY WE TOOK SO LONG.
BUT *YOU'RE* DONE, RIGHT?

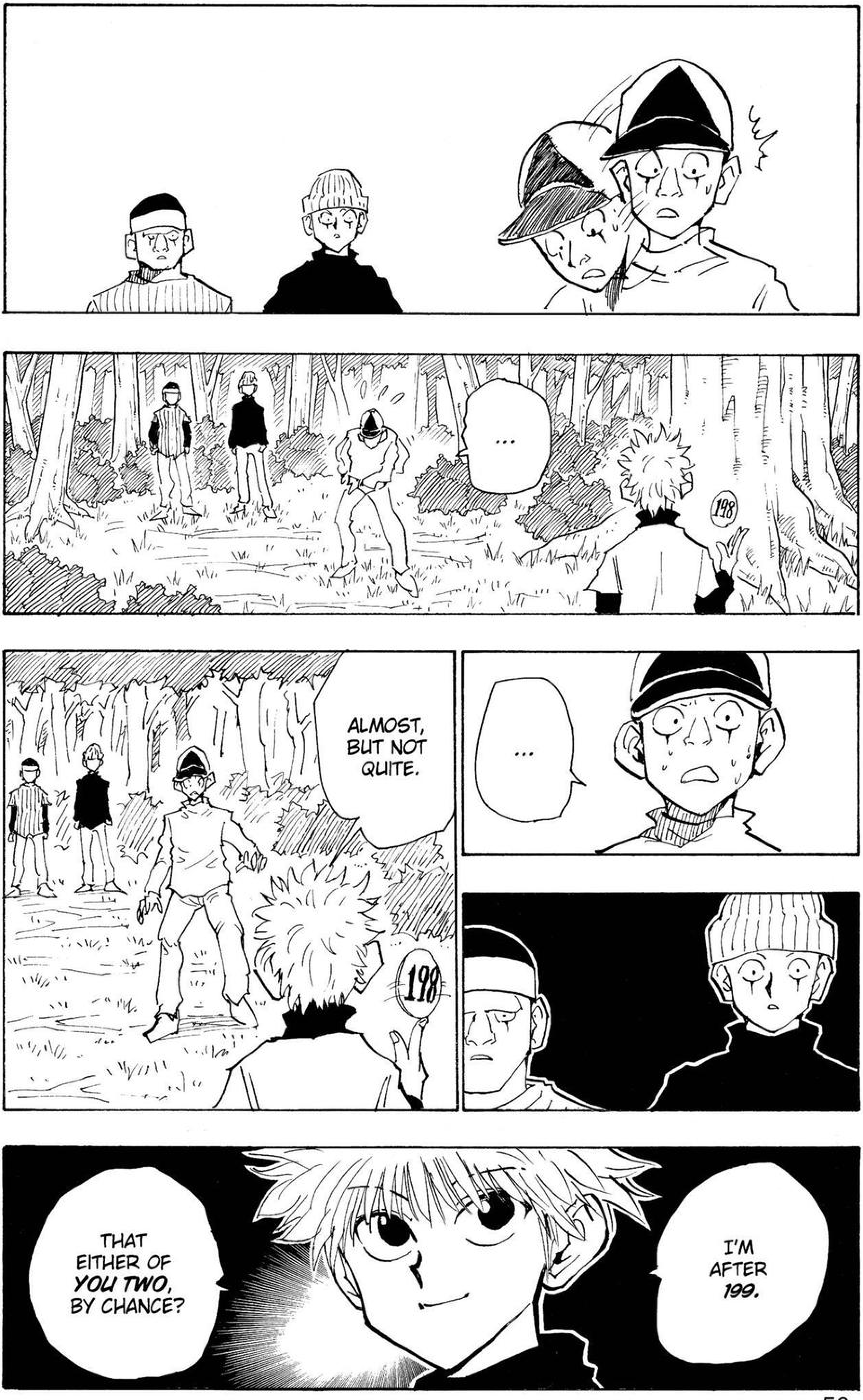

EH?
BOOT
POW
YOU WUSS!
YOU HAVEN'T TAKEN OUT THAT LITTLE KID YET?!
HEY, I WAS JUST...
...I MEAN, WHY RUSH IT?
THE THRILL'S IN THE CHASE, YEAH?
I'LL THRILL YA...
WHOA! HEY!
GUESS I SHOULD WRAP THIS UP.
HEH HEH
HERE I GO...
...

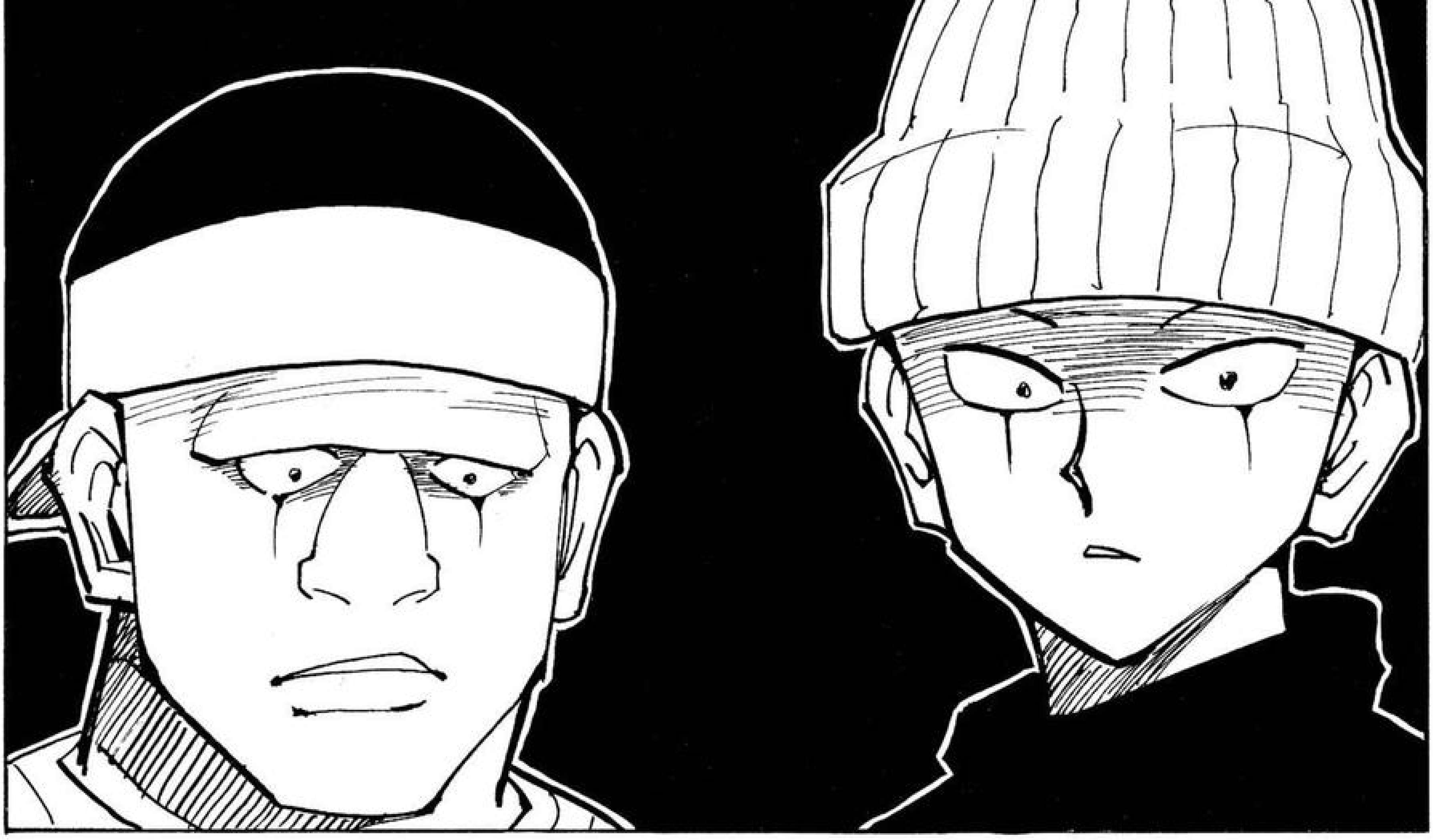

SHUMF
HAND OVER YER BADGE, KID...
...AN' YOU **WON'T** GET HURT, RIGHT?
IDIOT.
WHAM
99

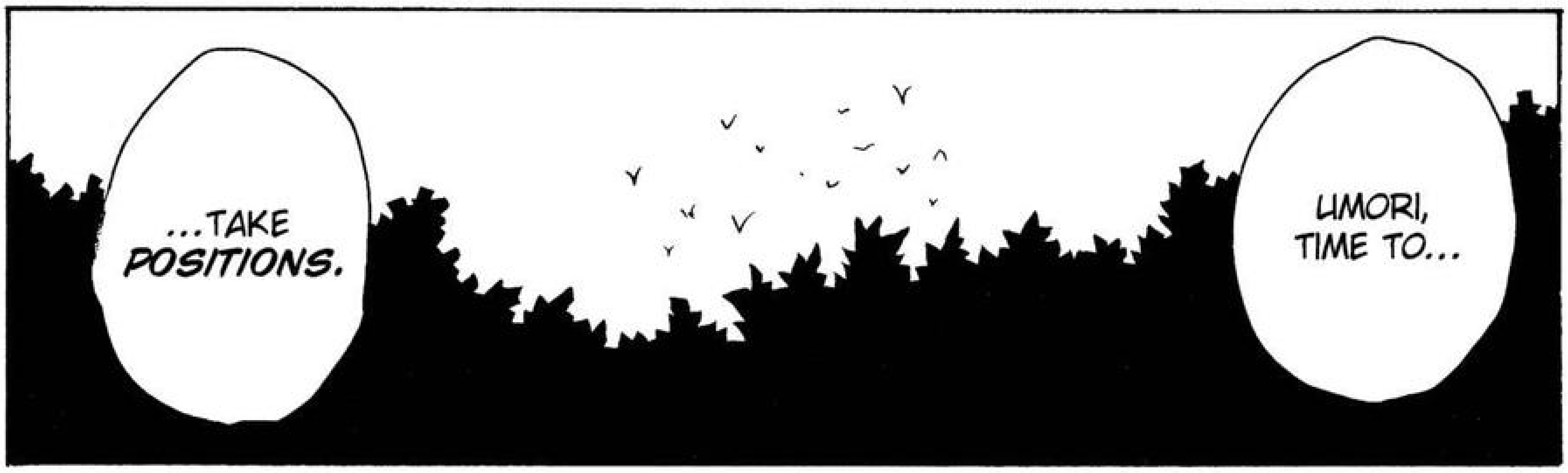

THUD
AWW...
...WOT A WIMP!
SOLAR PLEXUS KICK!
DOWN IN ONE!
...

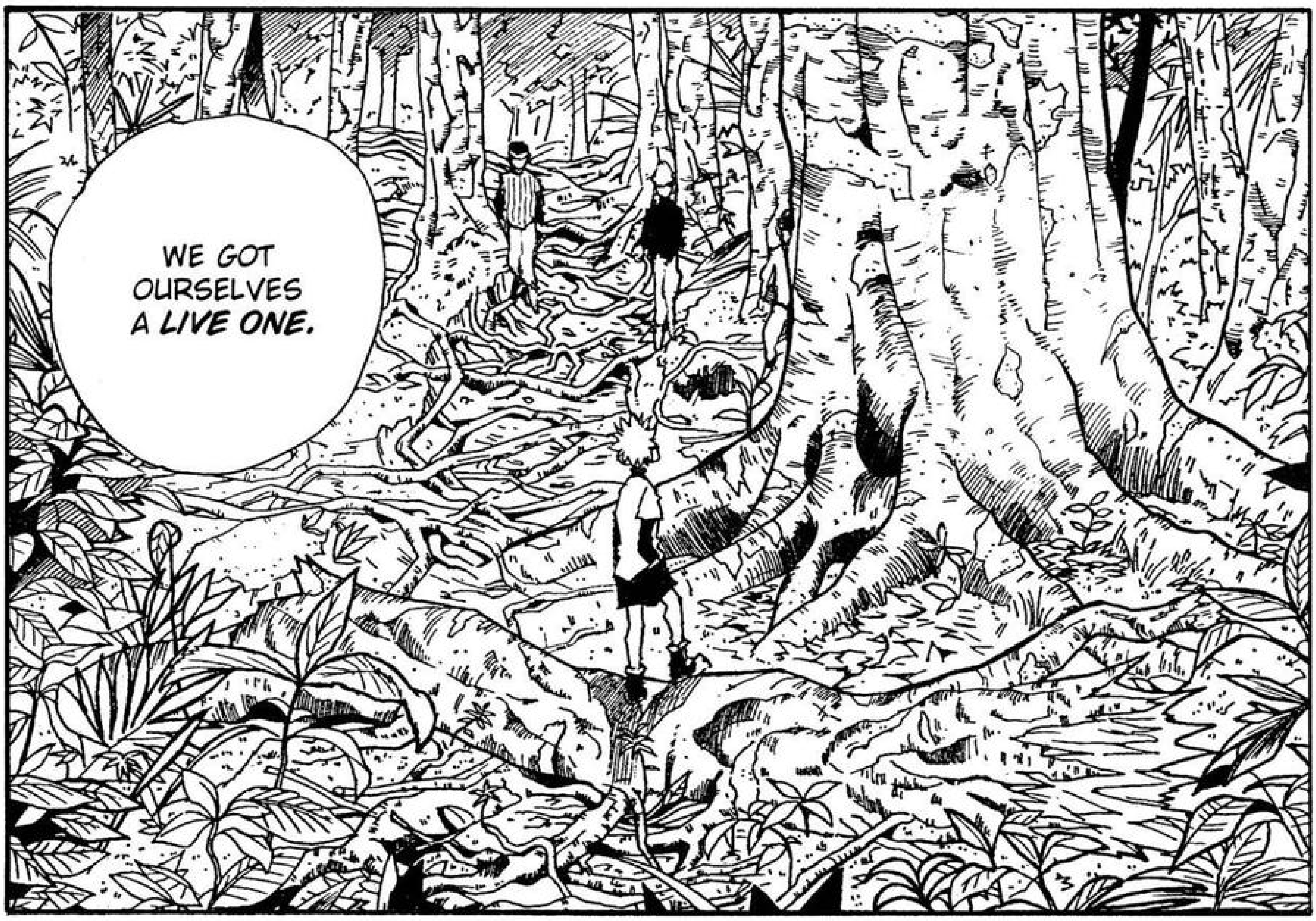
READ THIS WAY

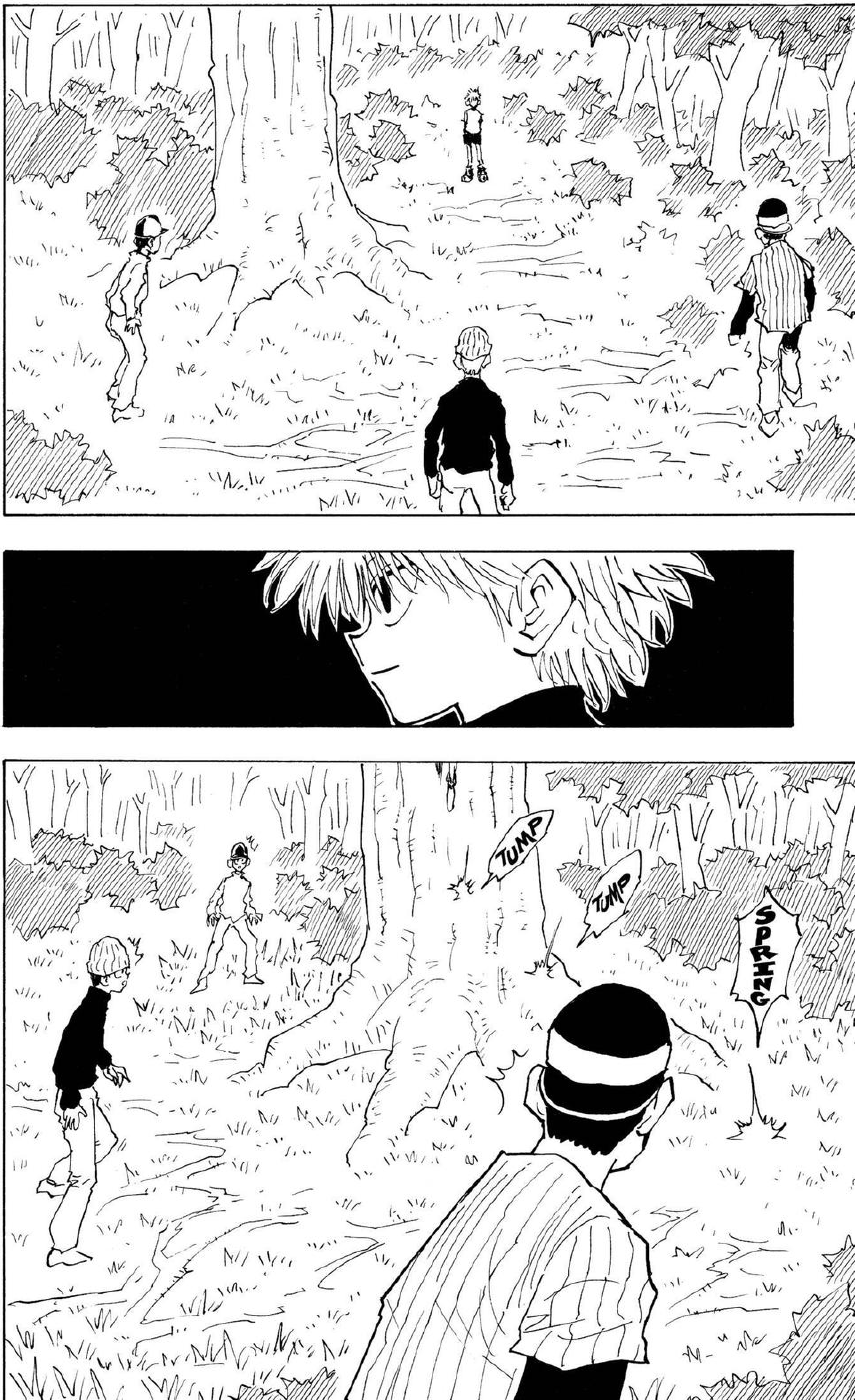

HIP!
HUP!
TUMP!
AW, Y'JUST WHIFFED 'IM.
YOU'RE TOYIN' WITH 'IM, YEAH?
UM...
... YEAH ...
SUFF
NUMBER 198.

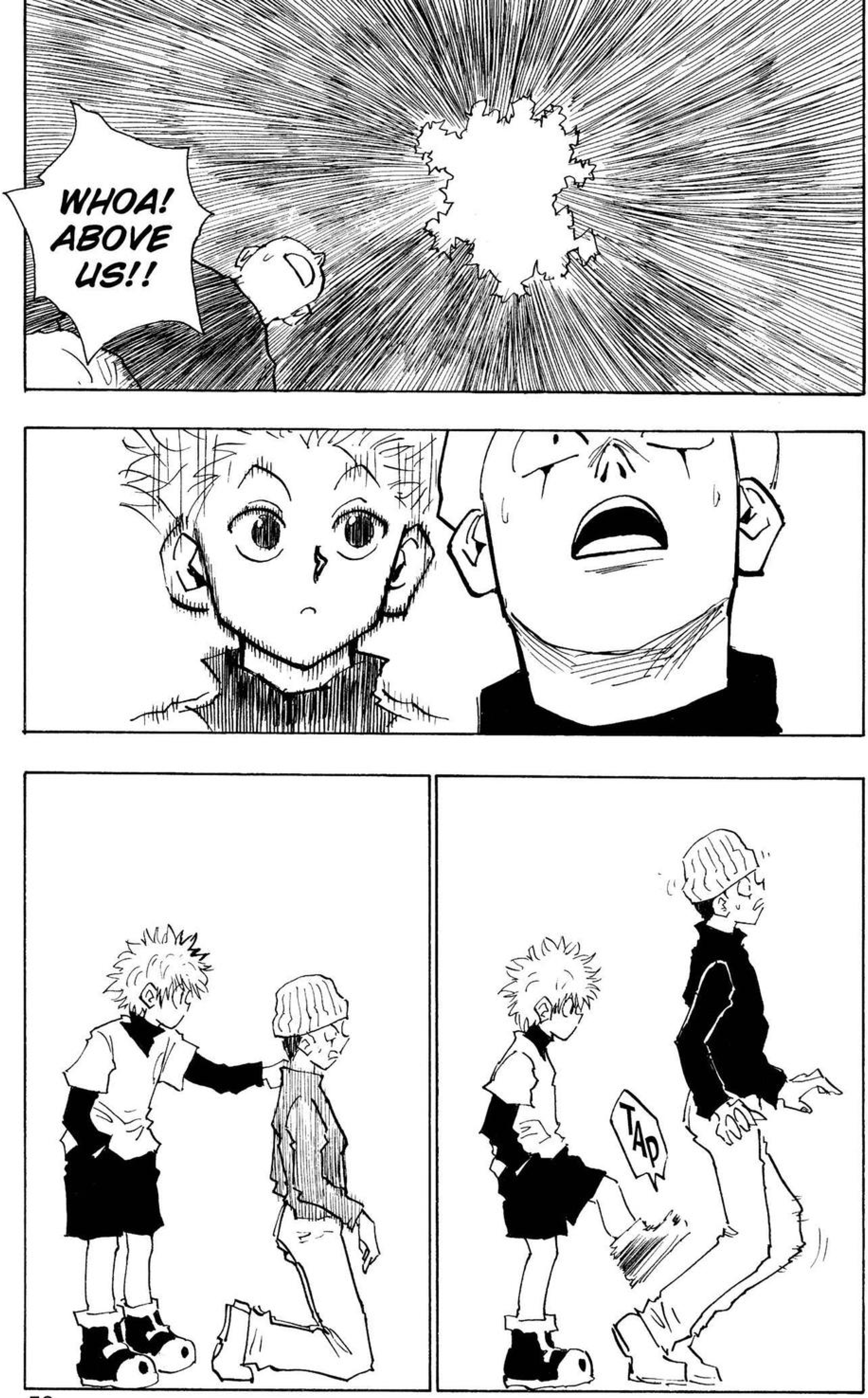

...
...
ALMOST, BUT NOT QUITE.
I'M AFTER *199.*
THAT EITHER OF ***YOU TWO***, BY CHANCE?
198

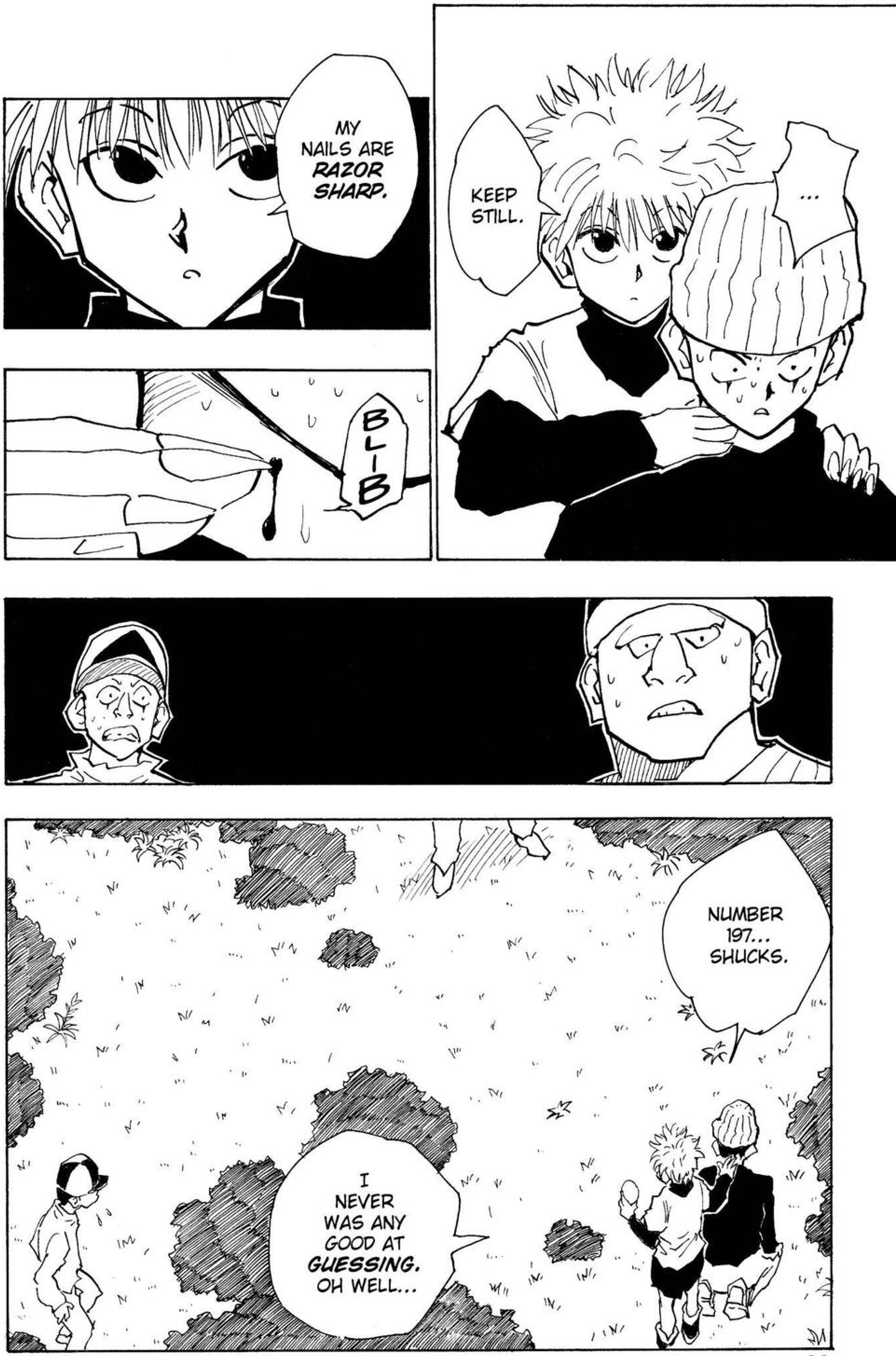


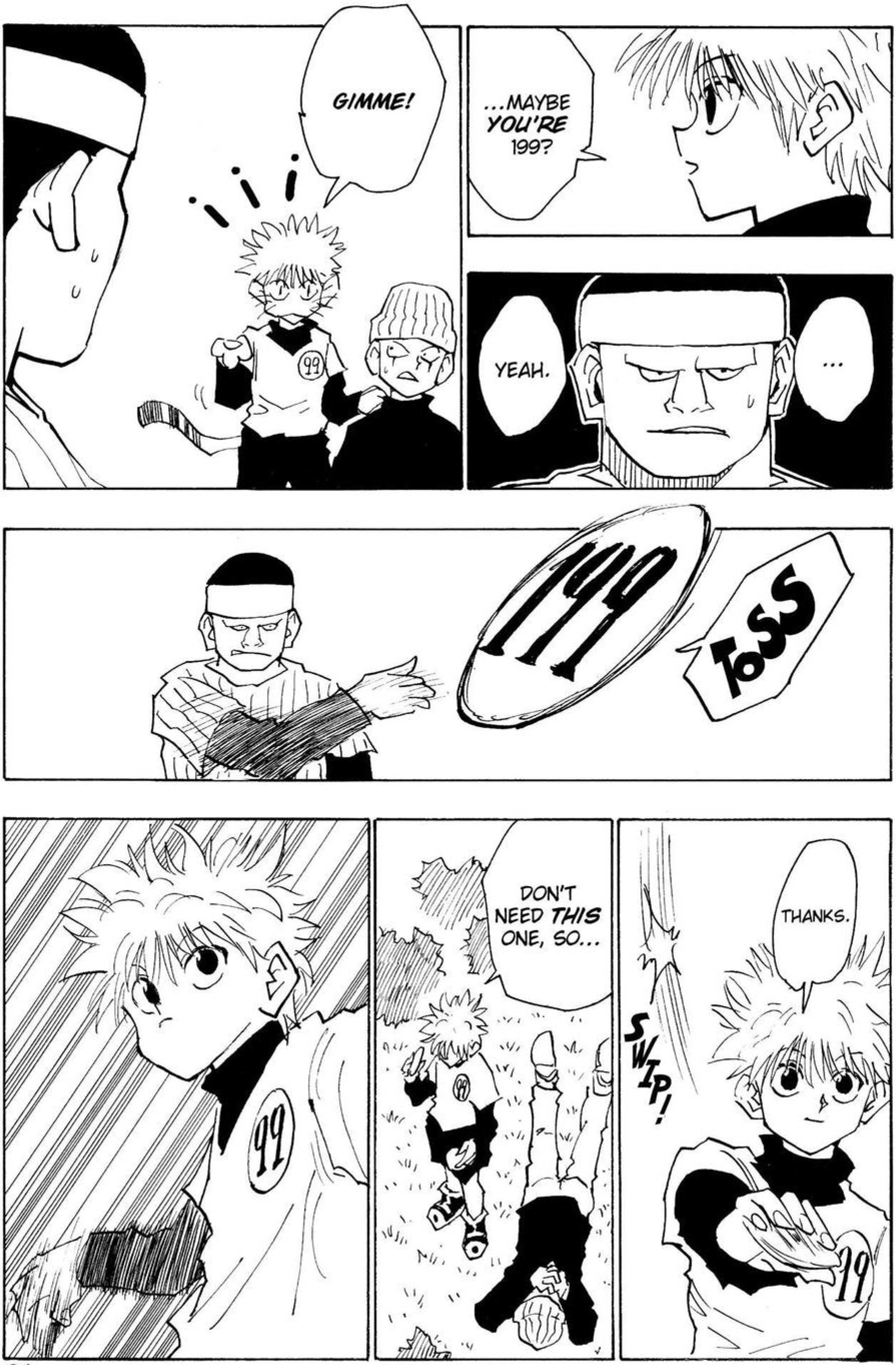

UMORI, TIME TO...
...TAKE POSITIONS.

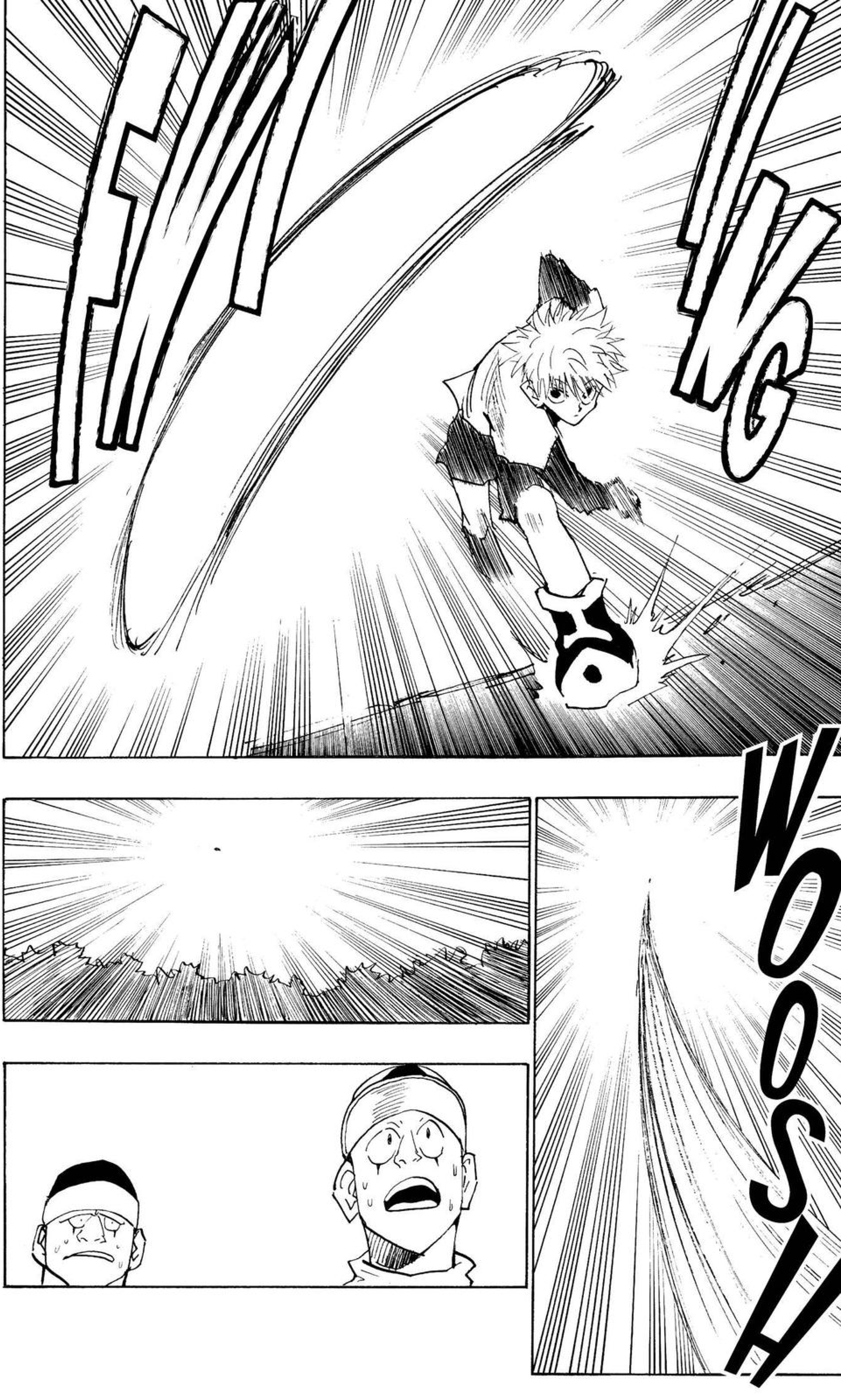

WE GOT OURSELVES A LIVE ONE.


TUMP
TUMP
SPRING

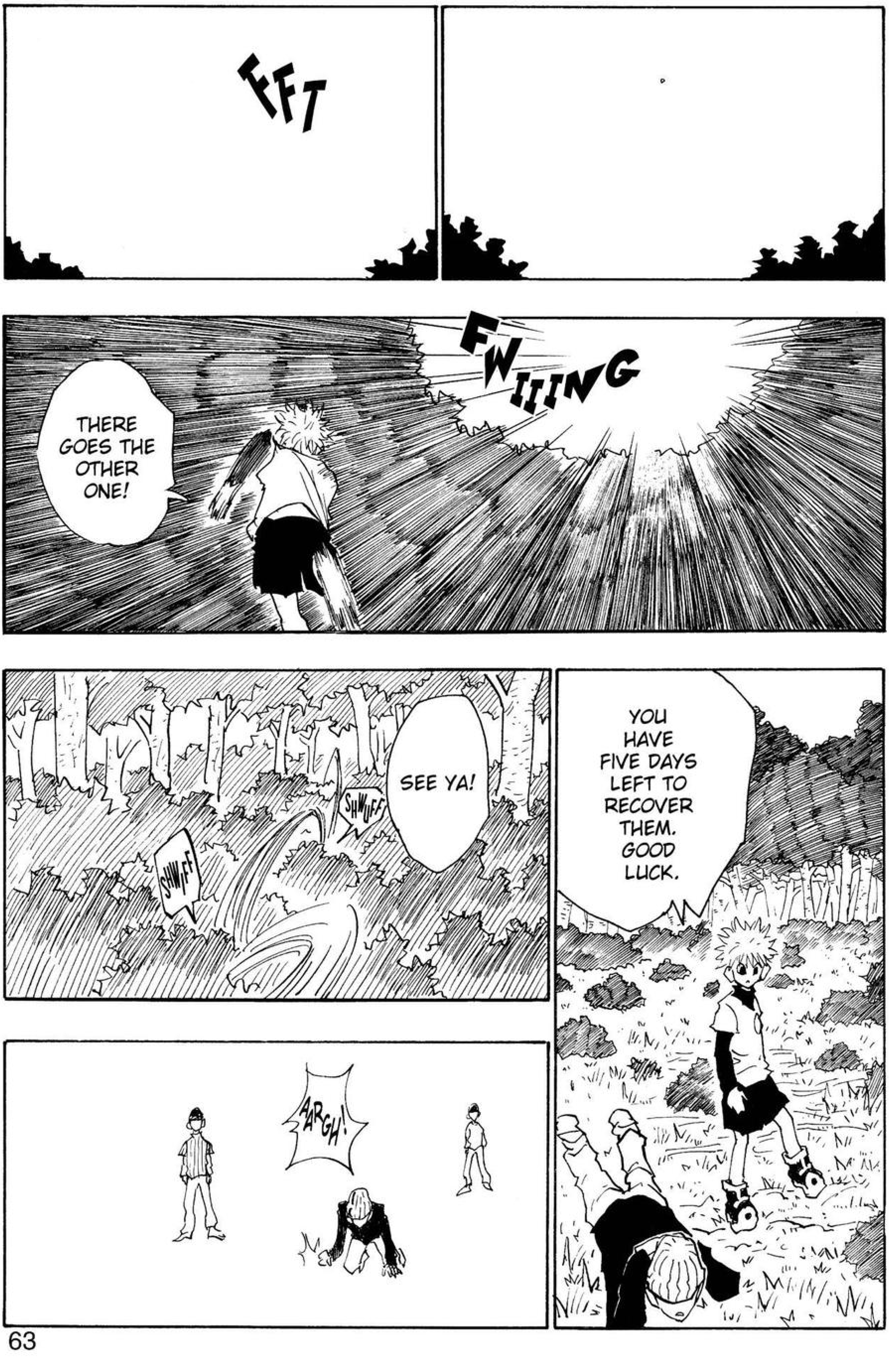

WHOA! ABOVE US!!
TAP

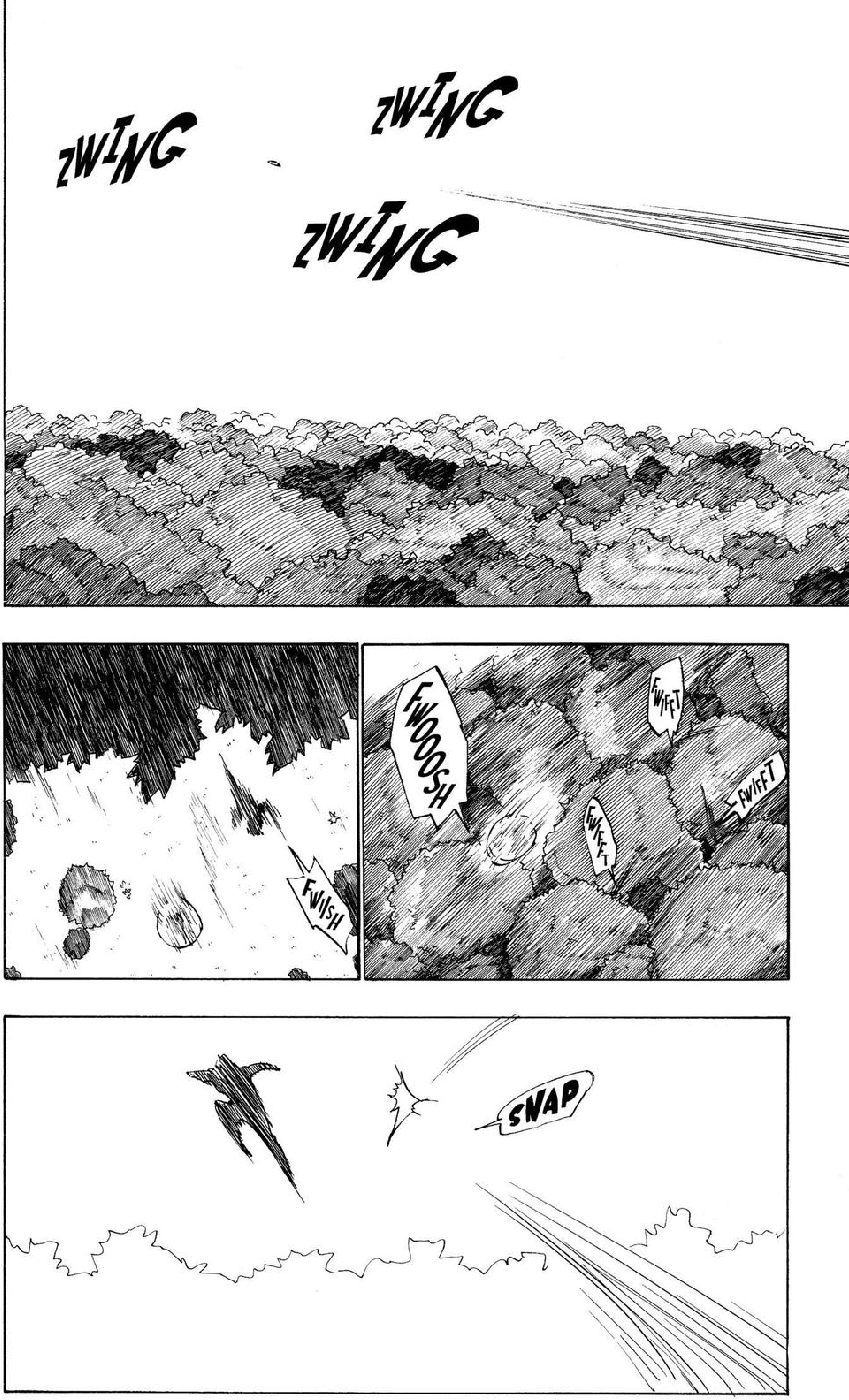

...
KEEP STILL.
MY NAILS ARE RAZOR SHARP.
BLIB
NUMBER 197... SHUCKS.
I NEVER WAS ANY GOOD AT GUESSING. OH WELL...

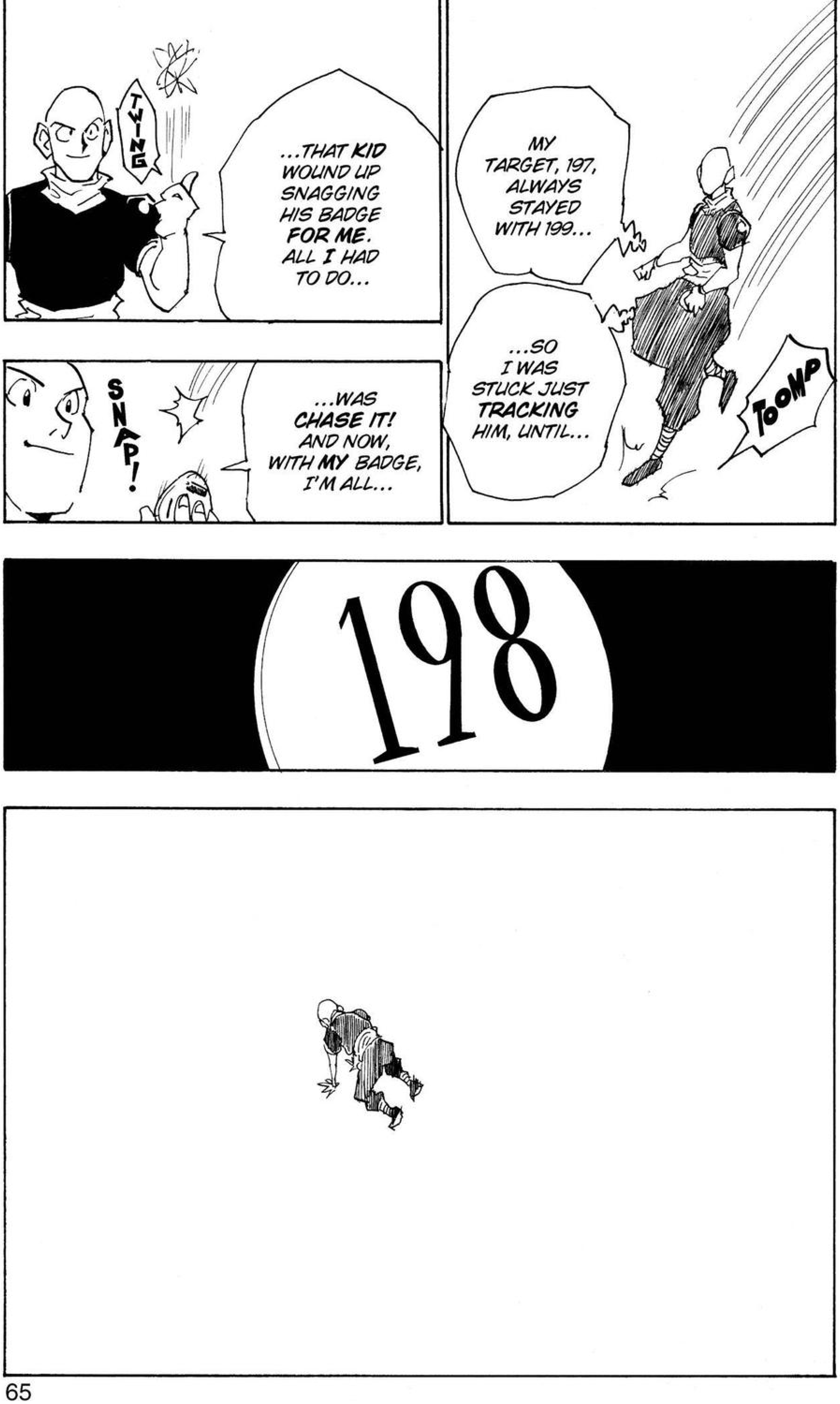

...MAYBE *YOU'RE* 199?
...
YEAH.
GIMME!
199
TOSS
THANKS.
SWIP!
DON'T NEED *THIS* ONE, SO...
99
19


FW
ING
WOOSH!

READ THIS WAY

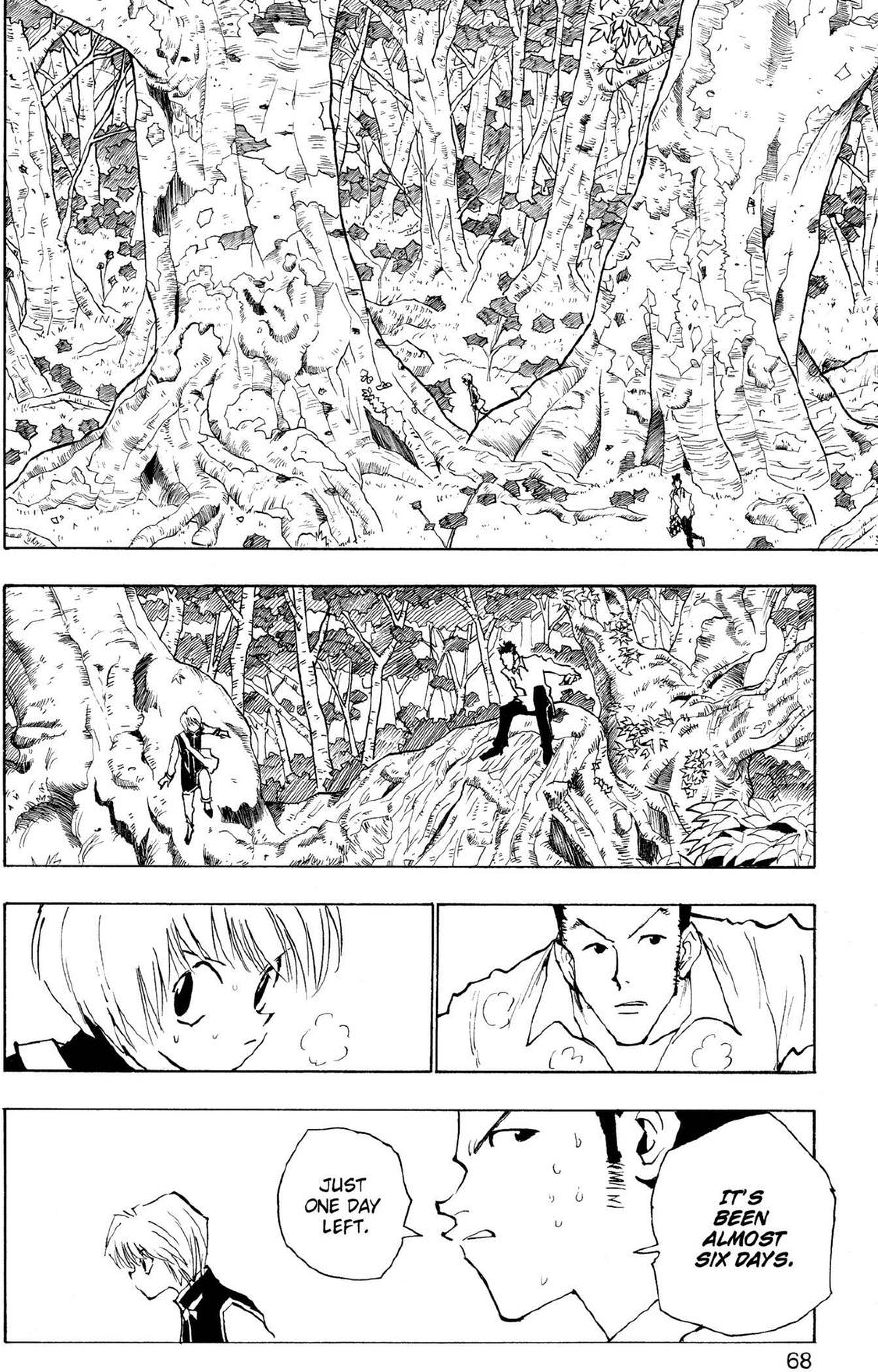

FFT
FWIIING
THERE GOES THE OTHER ONE!
YOU HAVE FIVE DAYS LEFT TO RECOVER THEM. GOOD LUCK.
SEE YA!
SHWUFF
SHWIFF
AARGH!


ZWING
ZWING
ZWING
FWOOOSH
FWIFFT
FWIFFT
FWIFFT
FWISH
SNAP

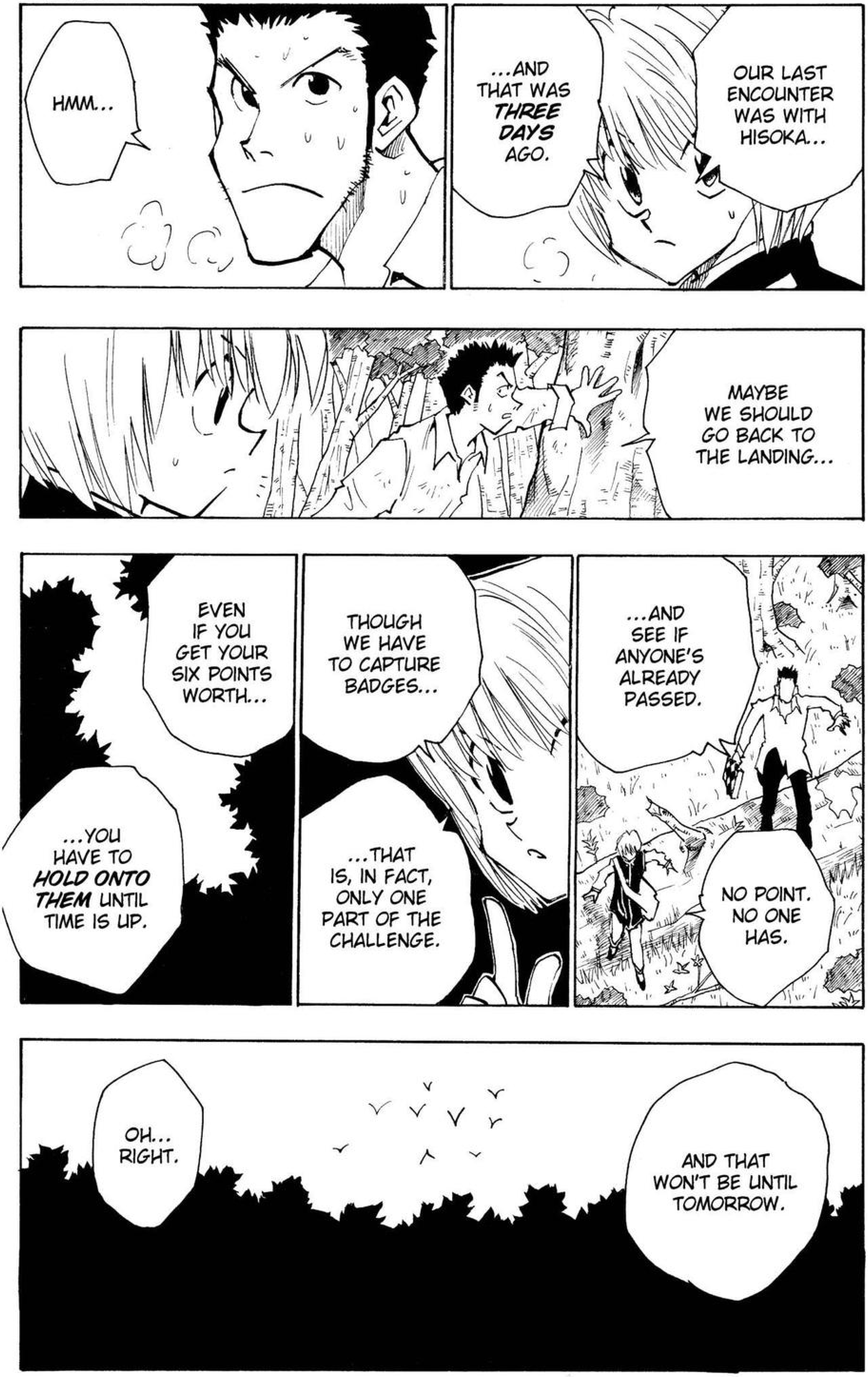

MY TARGET, 197, ALWAYS STAYED WITH 199...
...SO I WAS STUCK JUST **TRACKING** HIM, UNTIL...
TOOMP
TWING
...THAT **KID** WOUND UP SNAGGING HIS BADGE **FOR ME**. ALL I HAD TO DO...
SNAP!
...WAS **CHASE IT!** AND NOW, WITH **MY** BADGE, I'M ALL...
198

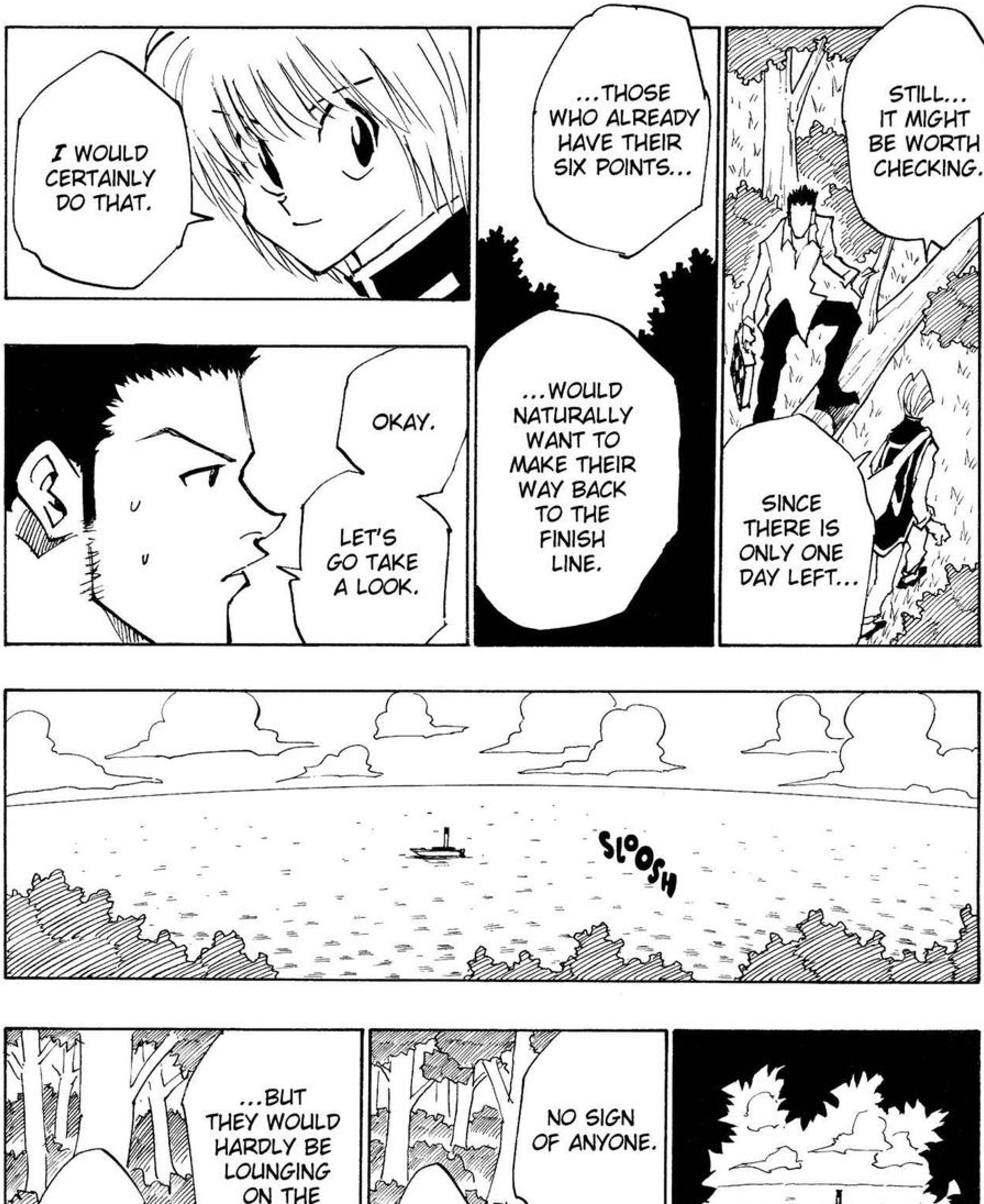
Chapter 30

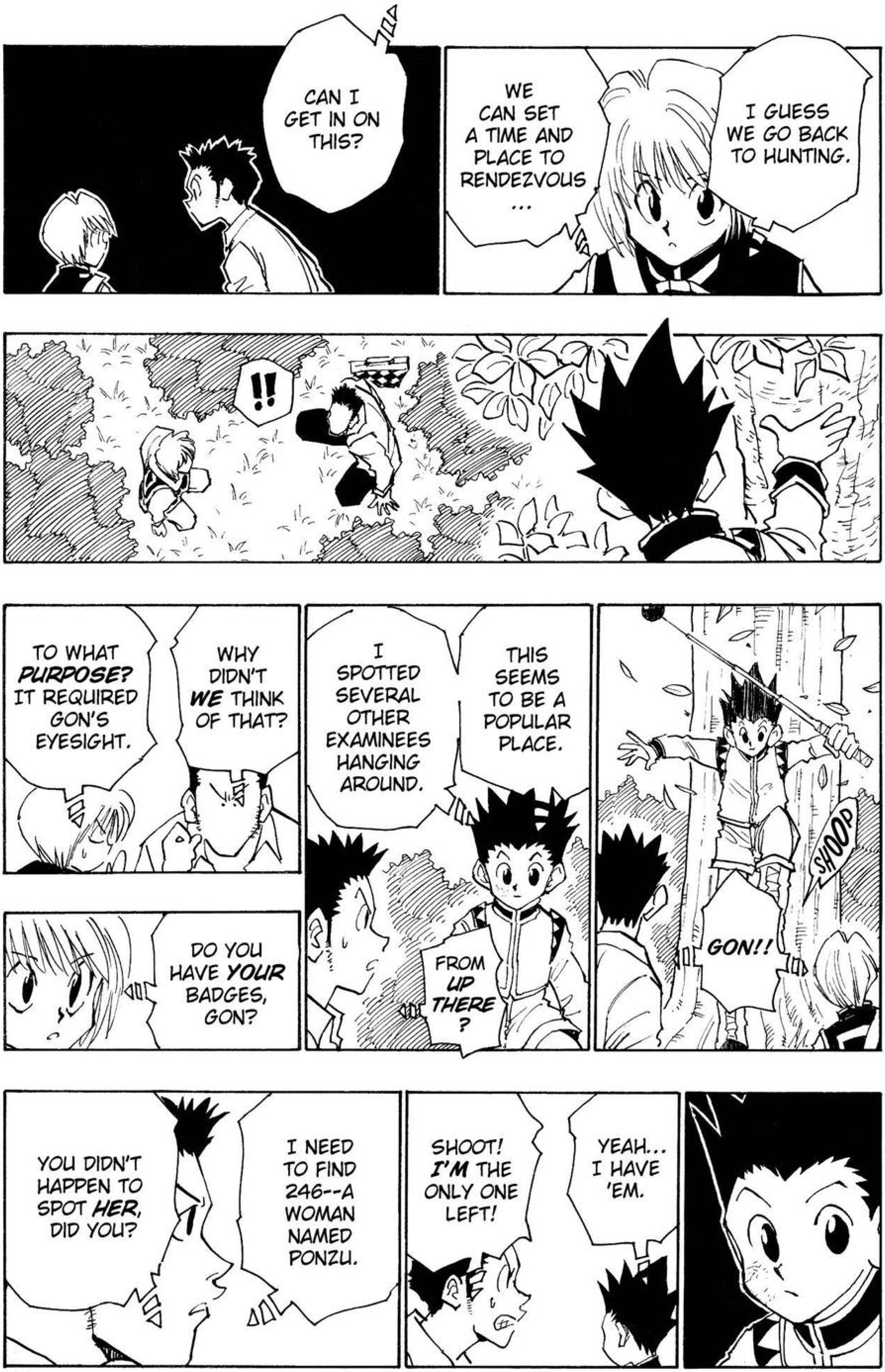
The Slithering Trap

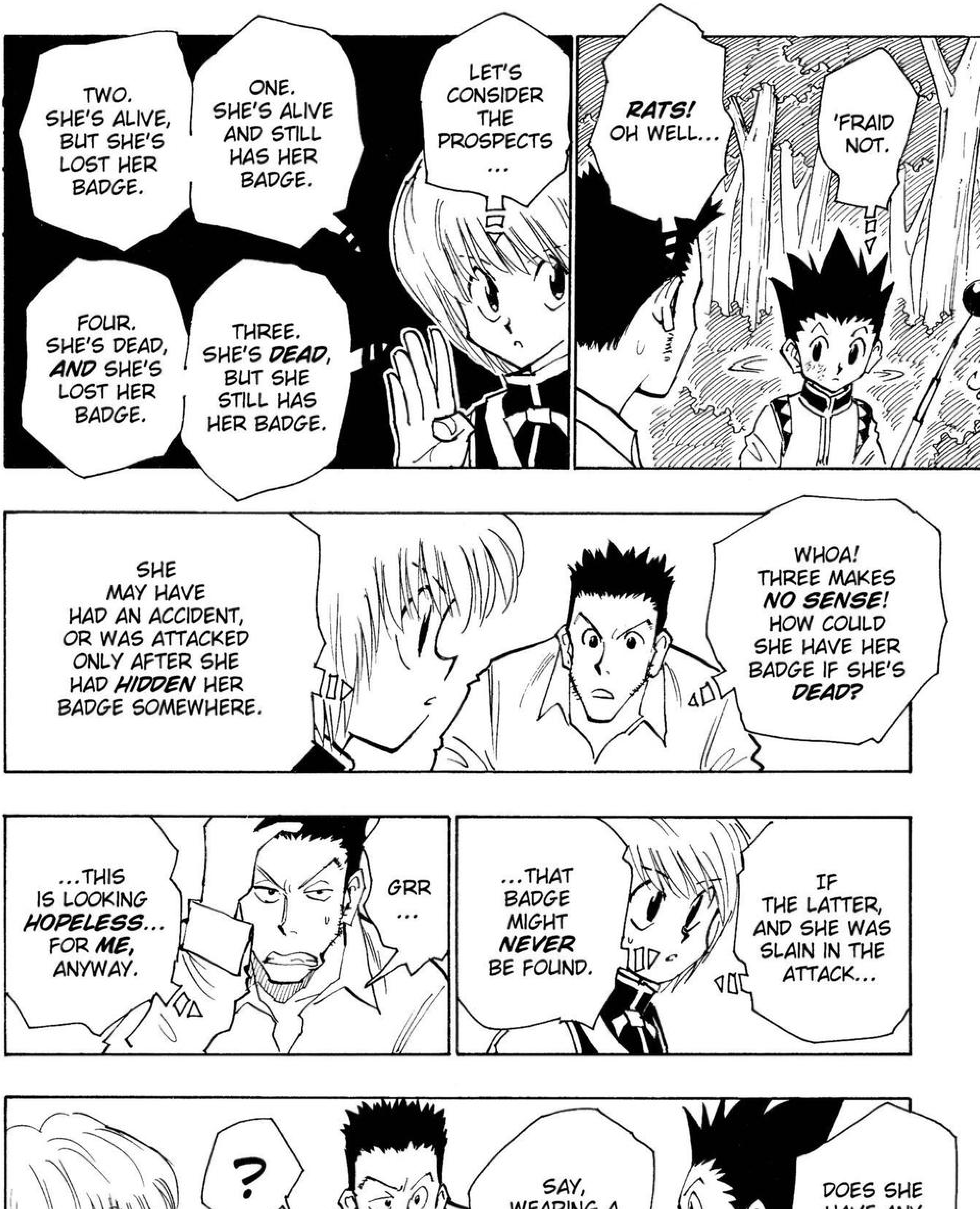

IT'S BEEN ALMOST SIX DAYS.
JUST ONE DAY LEFT.

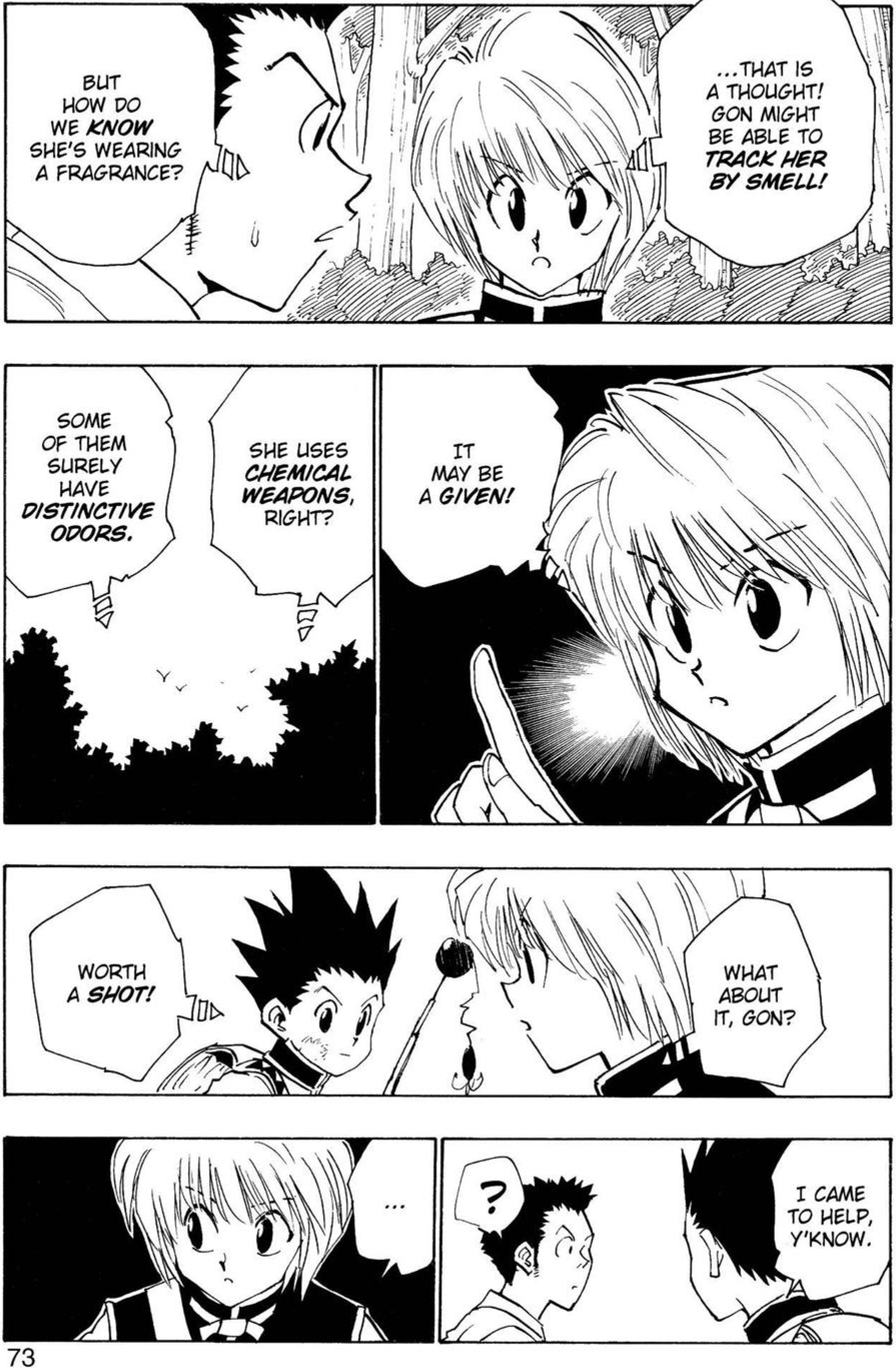
READ THIS WAY

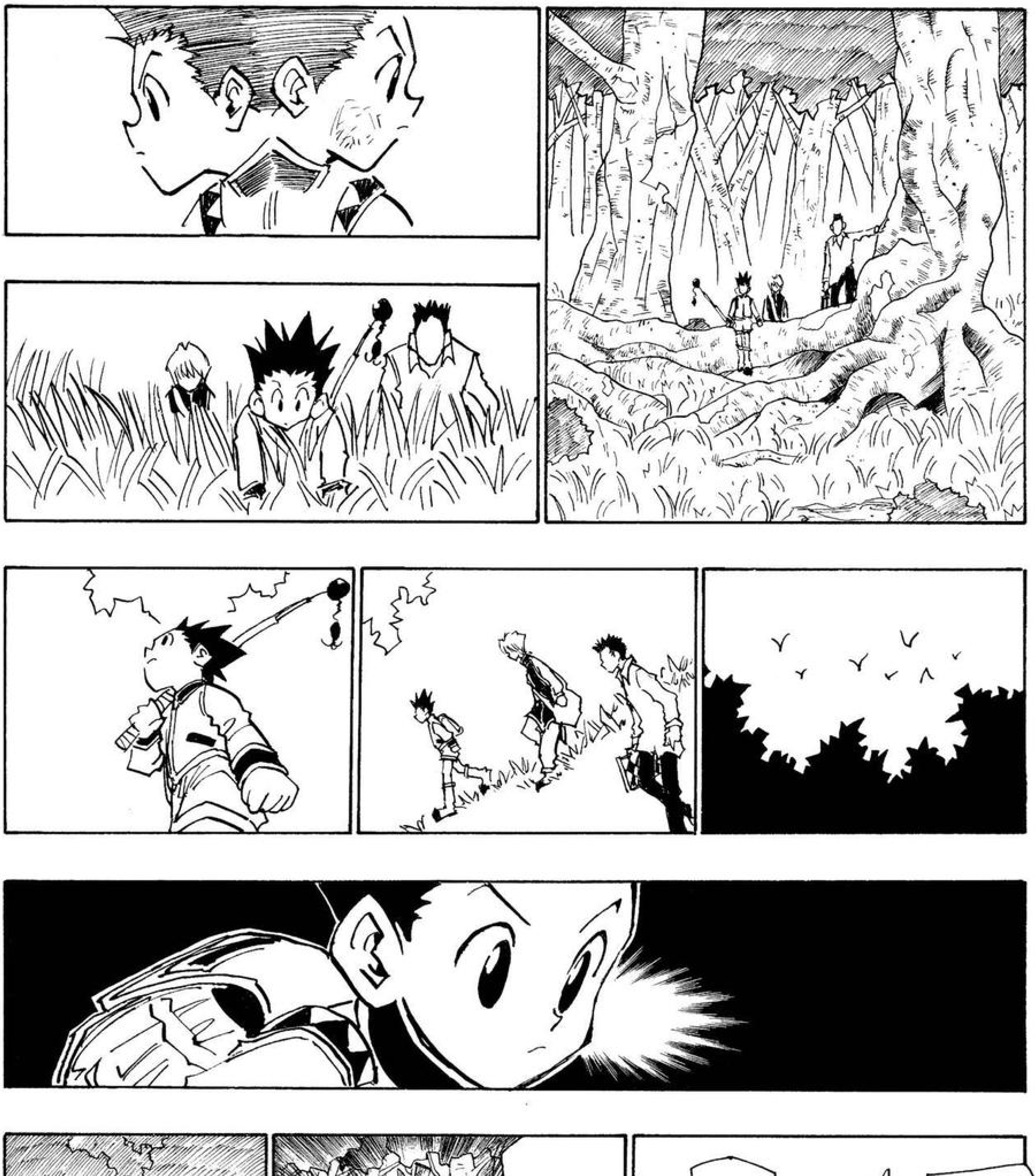

OUR LAST ENCOUNTER WAS WITH HISOKA...
...AND THAT WAS THREE DAYS AGO.
HMM...
MAYBE WE SHOULD GO BACK TO THE LANDING...
...AND SEE IF ANYONE'S ALREADY PASSED.
NO POINT. NO ONE HAS.
THOUGH WE HAVE TO CAPTURE BADGES...
...THAT IS, IN FACT, ONLY ONE PART OF THE CHALLENGE.
EVEN IF YOU GET YOUR SIX POINTS WORTH...
...YOU HAVE TO HOLD ONTO THEM UNTIL TIME IS UP.
AND THAT WON'T BE UNTIL TOMORROW.
OH... RIGHT.

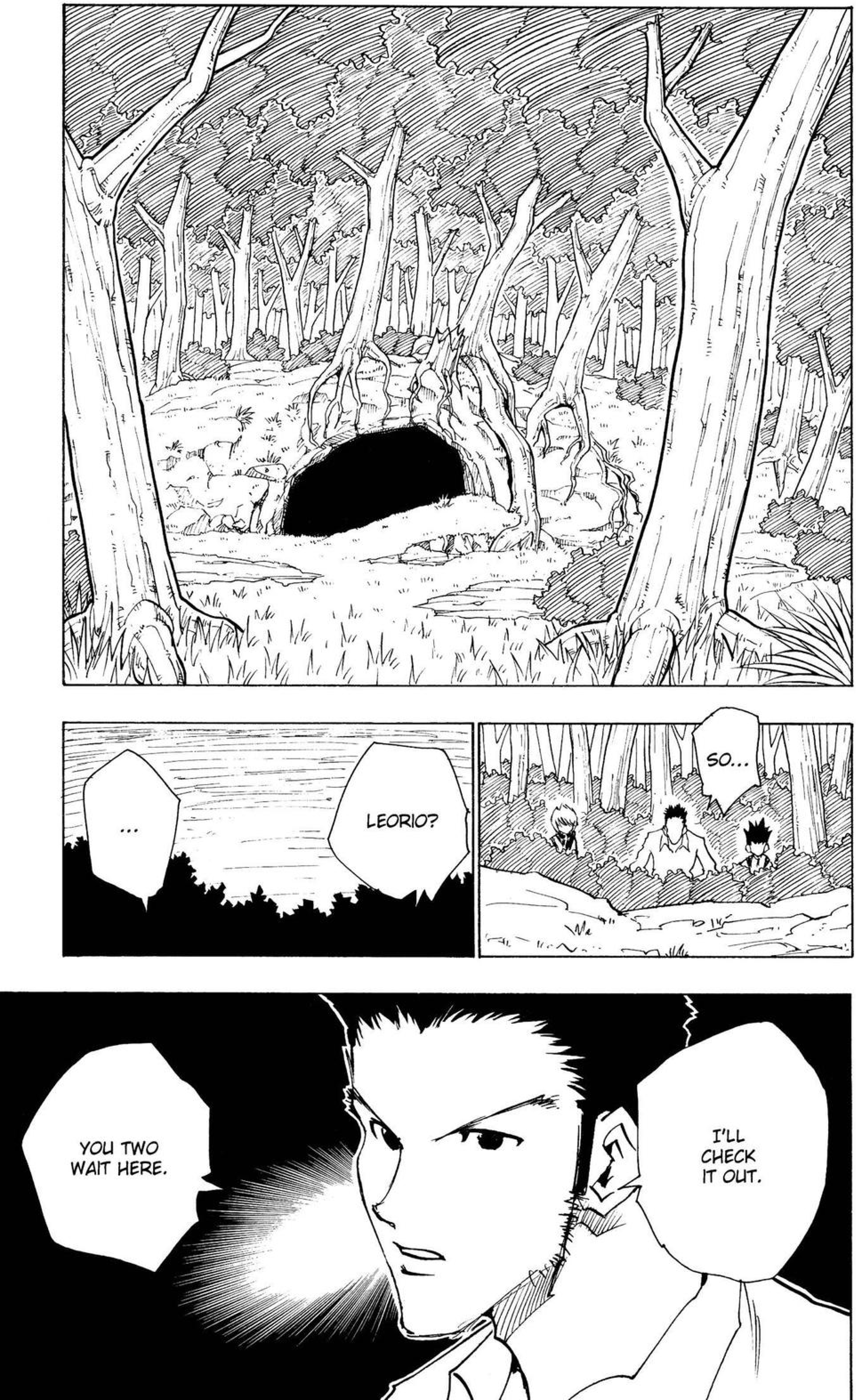

STILL... IT MIGHT BE WORTH CHECKING.
SINCE THERE IS ONLY ONE DAY LEFT...
...THOSE WHO ALREADY HAVE THEIR SIX POINTS...
...WOULD NATURALLY WANT TO MAKE THEIR WAY BACK TO THE FINISH LINE.
I WOULD CERTAINLY DO THAT.
OKAY.
LET'S GO TAKE A LOOK.
SLOOSH
NO SIGN OF ANYONE.
NO...
...BUT THEY WOULD HARDLY BE LOUNGING ON THE BEACH.
HMPH...

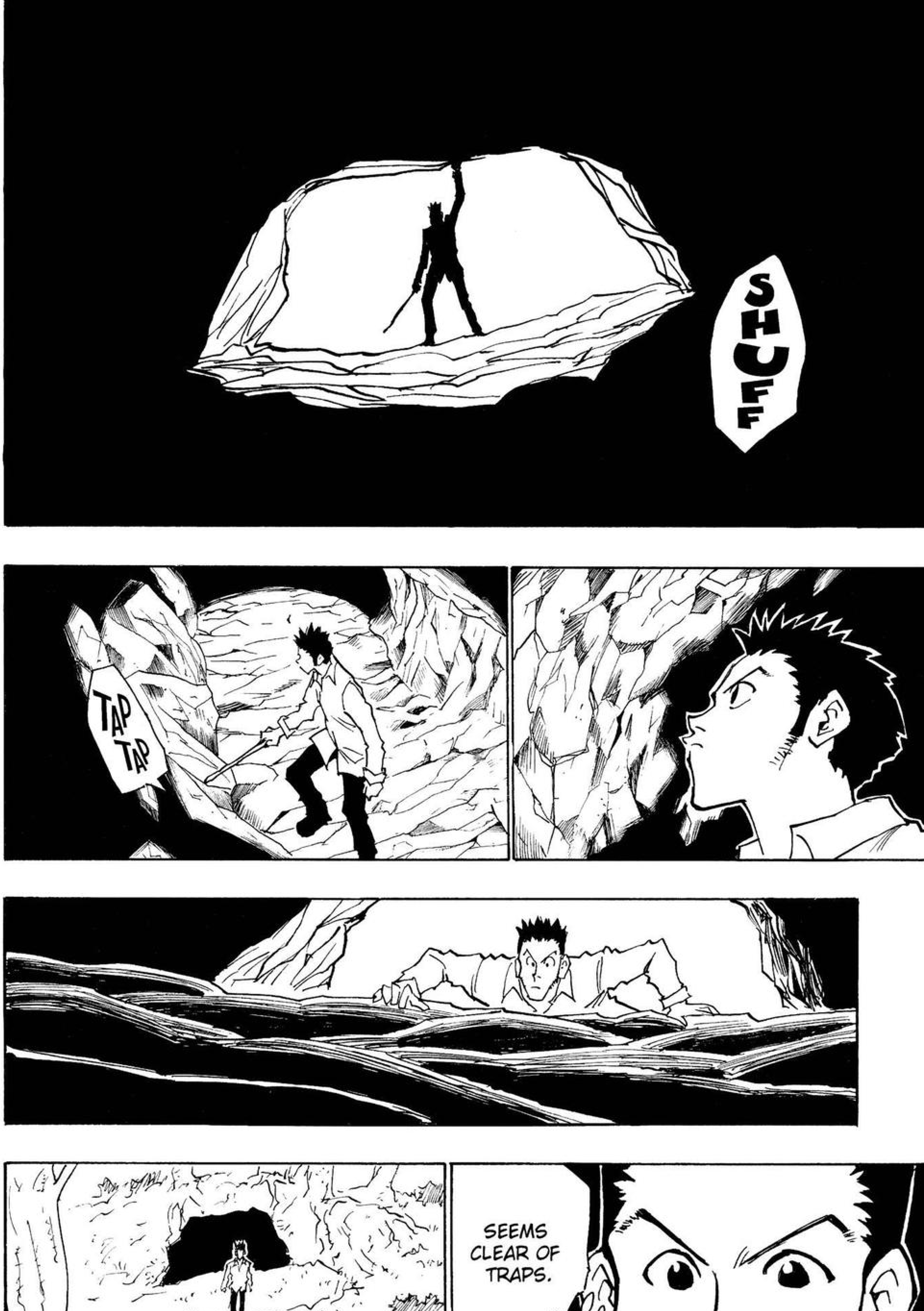

I GUESS WE GO BACK TO HUNTING.
WE CAN SET A TIME AND PLACE TO RENDEZVOUS...
CAN I GET IN ON THIS?
!!
GON!!
SHOOP
THIS SEEMS TO BE A POPULAR PLACE.
I SPOTTED SEVERAL OTHER EXAMINEES HANGING AROUND.
FROM UP THERE?
WHY DIDN'T WE THINK OF THAT?
TO WHAT PURPOSE? IT REQUIRED GON'S EYESIGHT.
DO YOU HAVE YOUR BADGES, GON?
YEAH... I HAVE 'EM.
SHOOT! I'M THE ONLY ONE LEFT!
I NEED TO FIND 246--A WOMAN NAMED PONZU.
YOU DIDN'T HAPPEN TO SPOT HER, DID YOU?

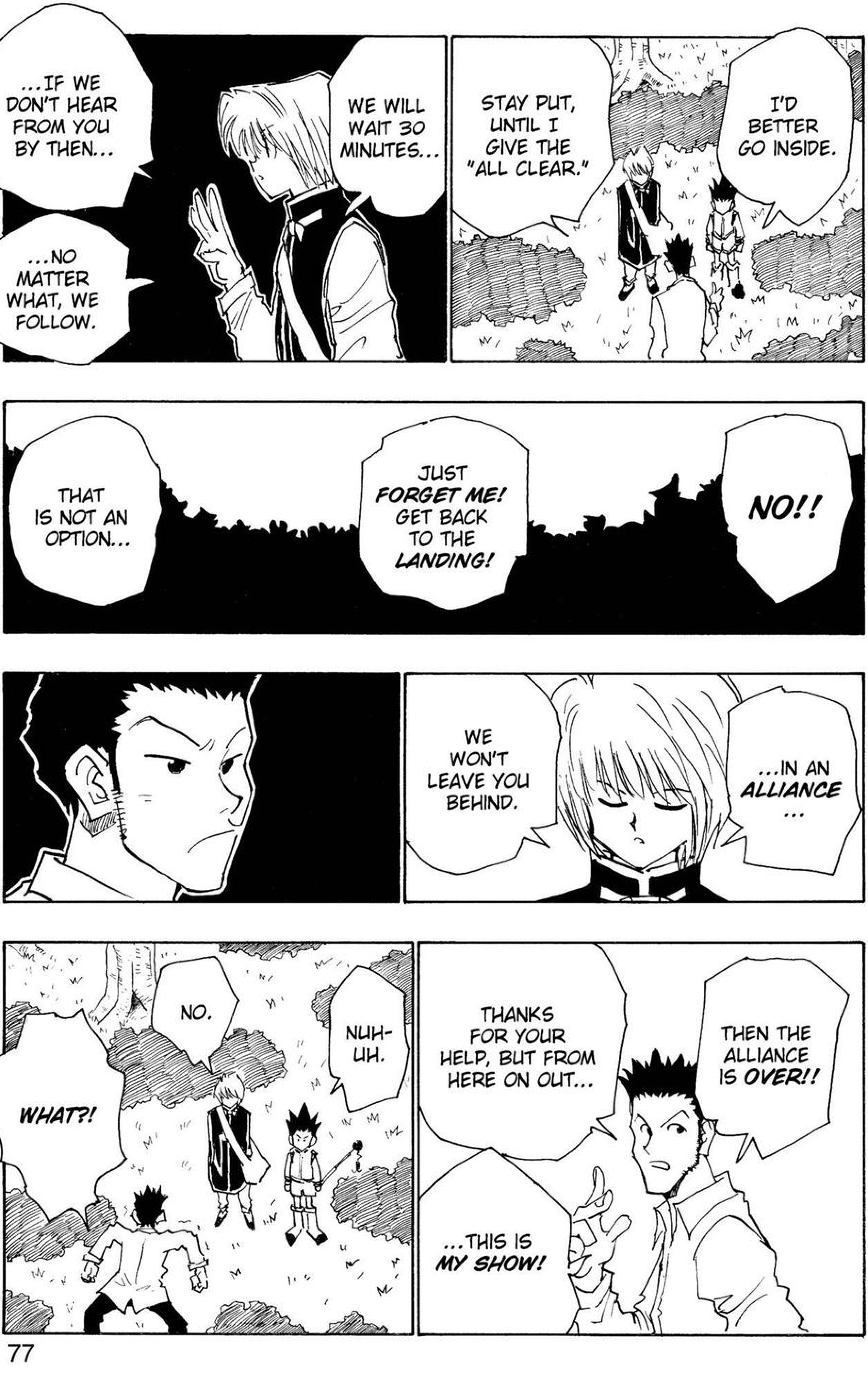

'FRAID NOT.
RATS! OH WELL...
LET'S CONSIDER THE PROSPECTS...
ONE. SHE'S ALIVE AND STILL HAS HER BADGE.
TWO. SHE'S ALIVE, BUT SHE'S LOST HER BADGE.
THREE. SHE'S DEAD, BUT SHE STILL HAS HER BADGE.
FOUR. SHE'S DEAD, AND SHE'S LOST HER BADGE.
WHOA! THREE MAKES NO SENSE! HOW COULD SHE HAVE HER BADGE IF SHE'S DEAD?
SHE MAY HAVE HAD AN ACCIDENT, OR WAS ATTACKED ONLY AFTER SHE HAD HIDDEN HER BADGE SOMEWHERE.
IF THE LATTER, AND SHE WAS SLAIN IN THE ATTACK...
...THAT BADGE MIGHT NEVER BE FOUND.
GRR...
...THIS IS LOOKING HOPELESS... FOR ME, ANYWAY.
DOES SHE HAVE ANY PARTICULAR TRAITS?
SAY, WEARING A FRAGRANCE LIKE LEORIO?
?
HMM...

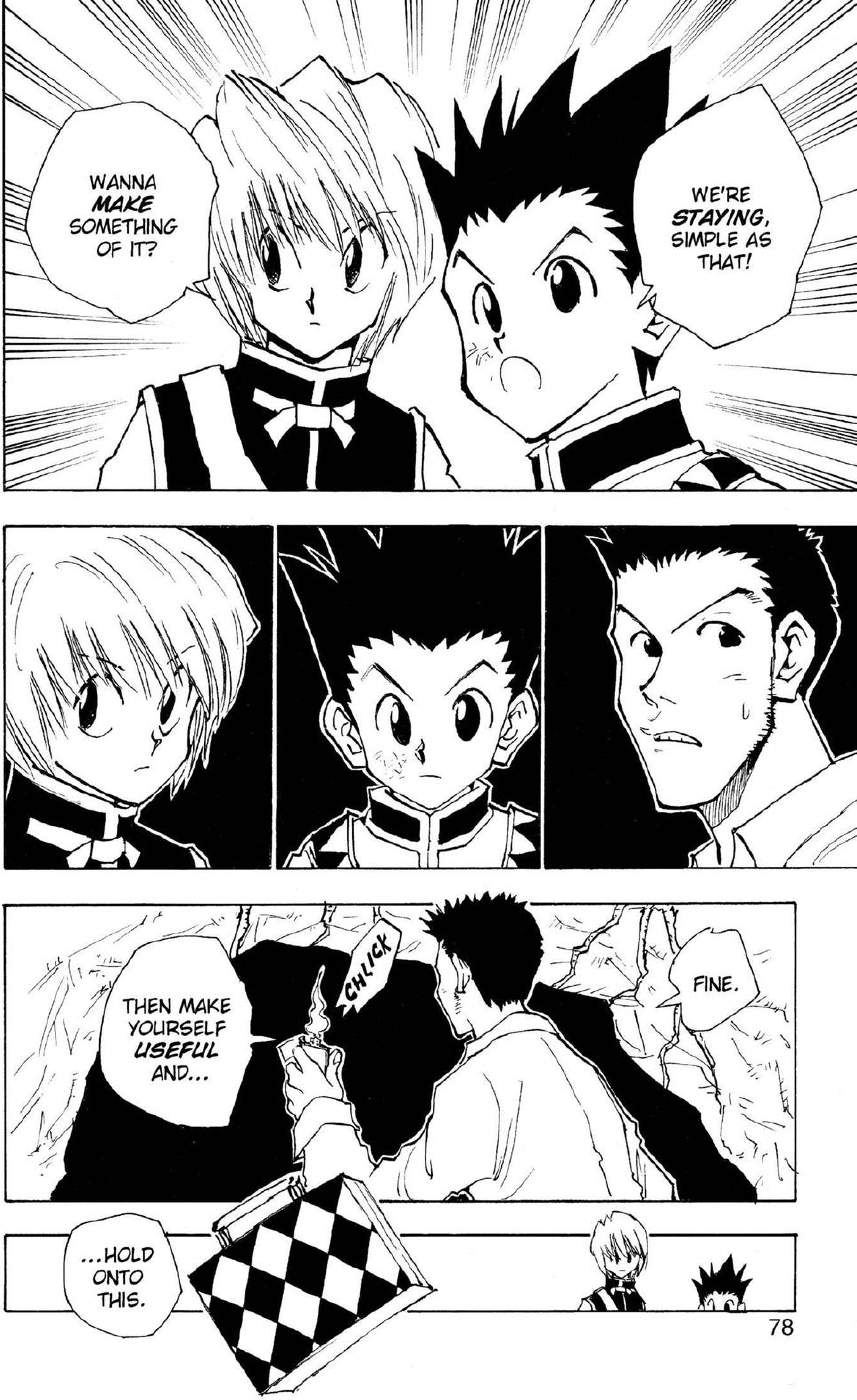

...THAT IS A THOUGHT! GON MIGHT BE ABLE TO *TRACK HER BY SMELL!*
BUT HOW DO WE *KNOW* SHE'S WEARING A FRAGRANCE?
IT MAY BE A *GIVEN!*
SHE USES *CHEMICAL WEAPONS*, RIGHT?
SOME OF THEM SURELY HAVE *DISTINCTIVE ODORS.*
WHAT ABOUT IT, GON?
WORTH A *SHOT!*
I CAME TO HELP, Y'KNOW.
?
...

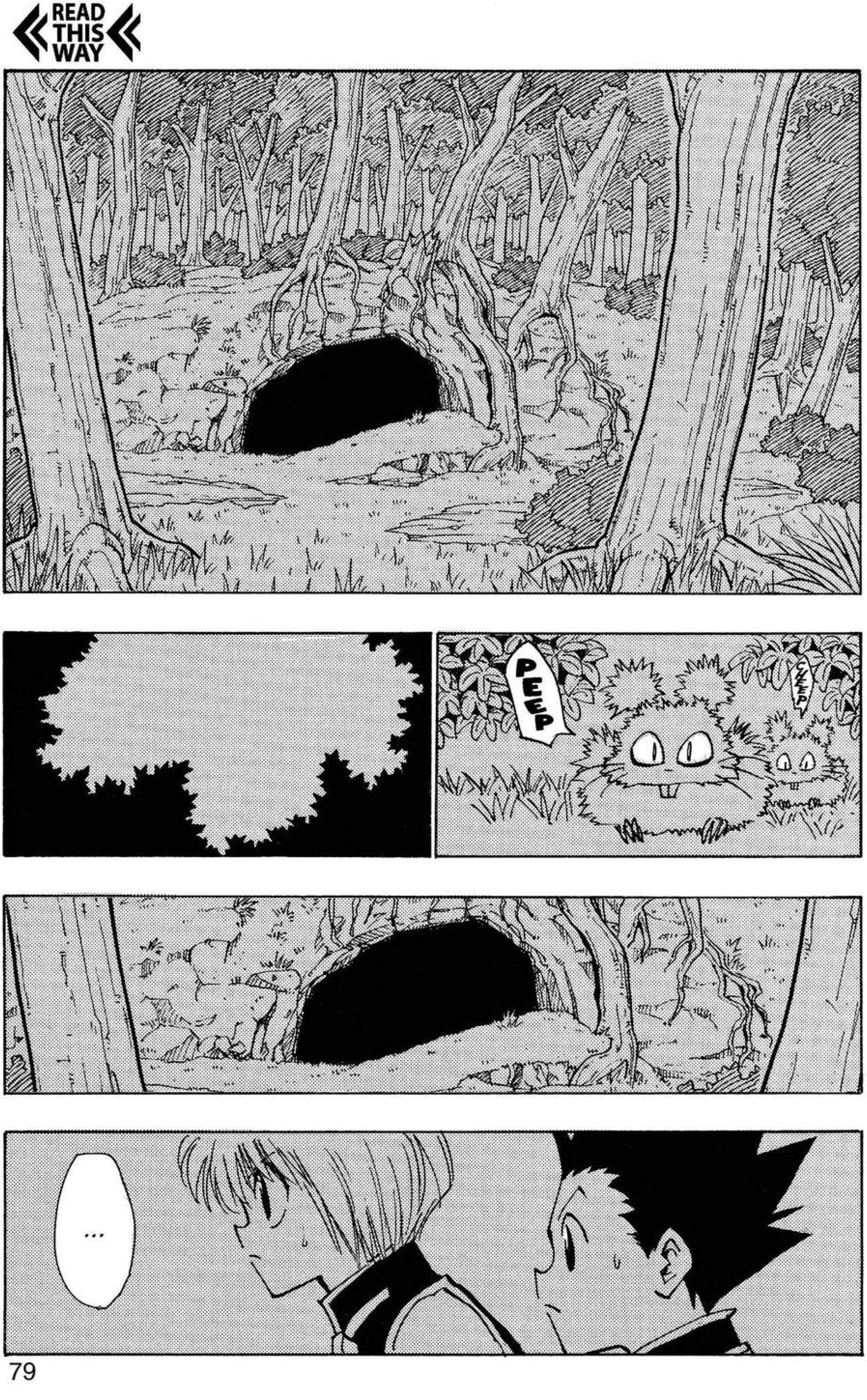

!
THIS WAY...
...WE'RE CLOSE!
SHEOOO
SHUFF

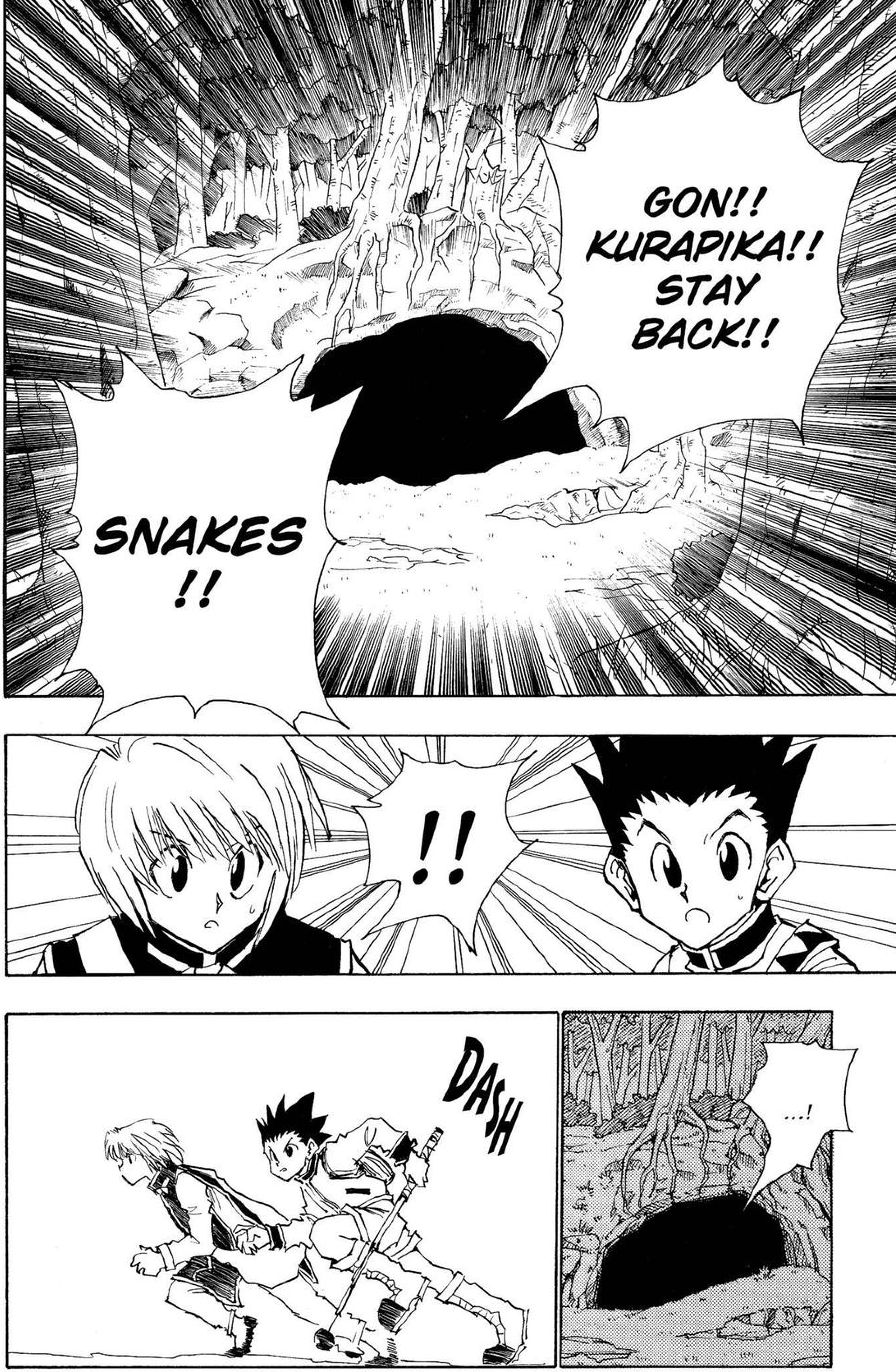

SO...
LEORIO?
...
I'LL CHECK IT OUT.
YOU TWO WAIT HERE.

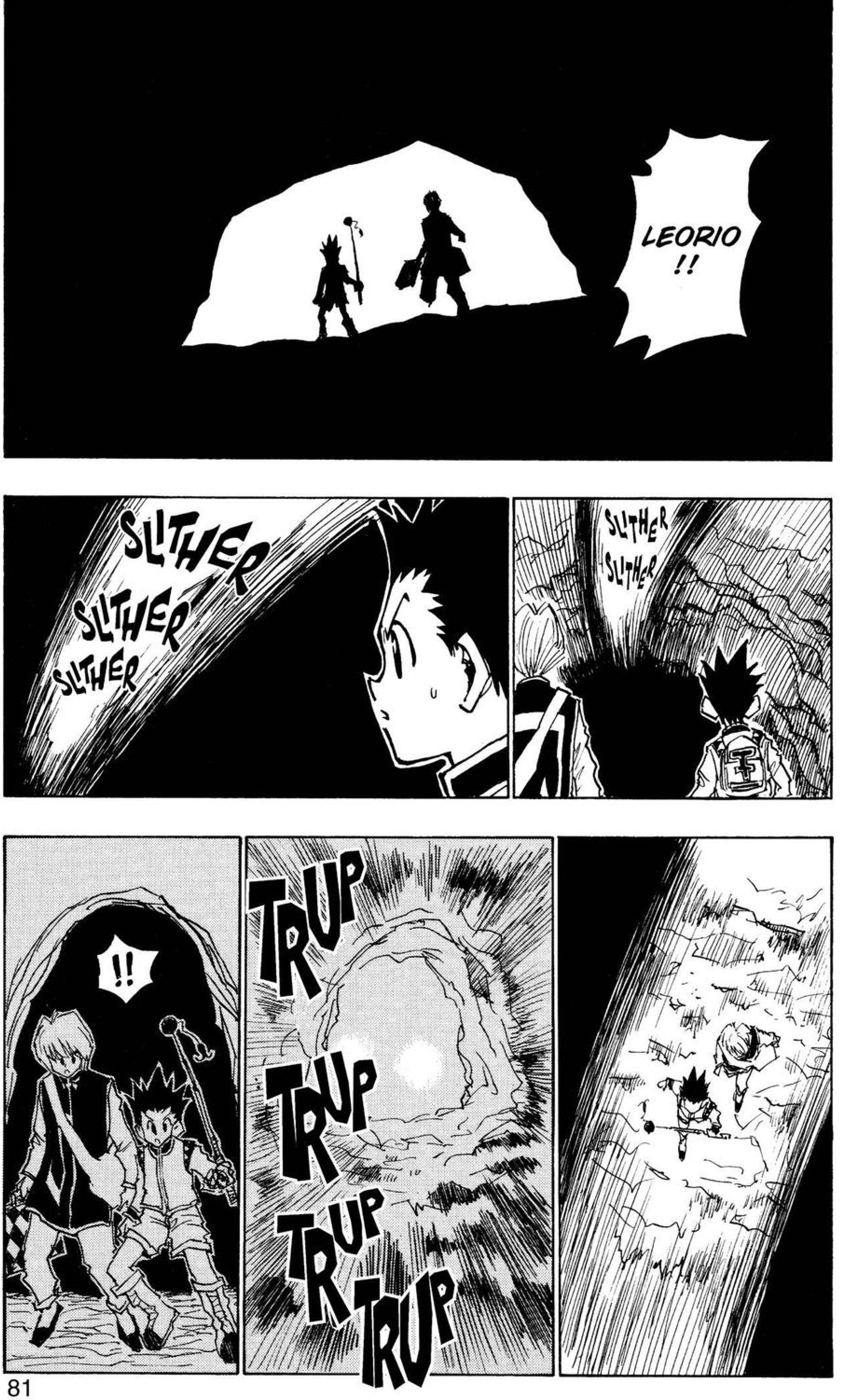

SHUFF
TAP TAP
SEEMS CLEAR OF TRAPS.

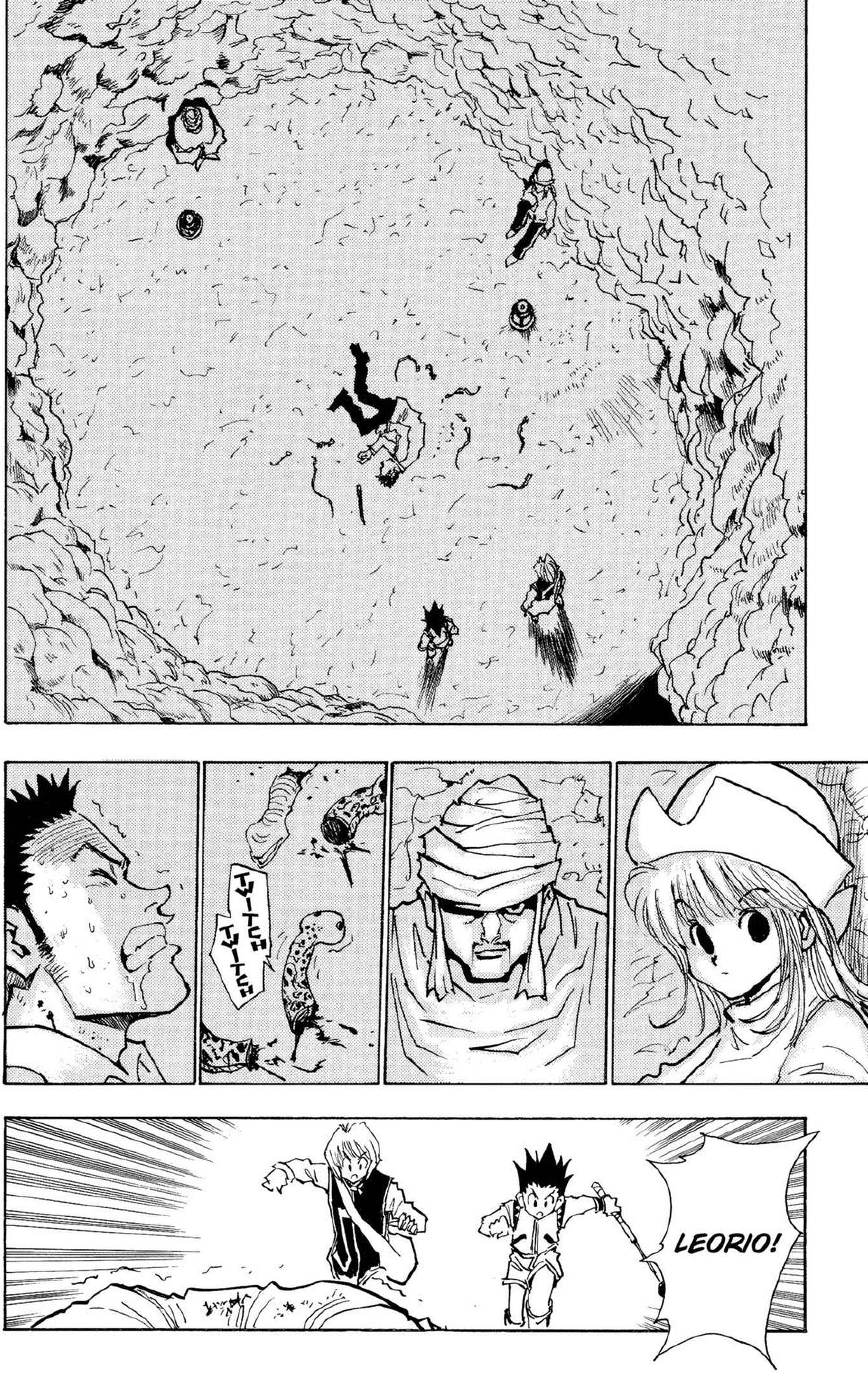

I'D BETTER GO INSIDE.
STAY PUT, UNTIL I GIVE THE "ALL CLEAR."
WE WILL WAIT 30 MINUTES...
...IF WE DON'T HEAR FROM YOU BY THEN...
...NO MATTER WHAT, WE FOLLOW.
NO!!
JUST FORGET ME! GET BACK TO THE LANDING!
THAT IS NOT AN OPTION...
...IN AN ALLIANCE...
WE WON'T LEAVE YOU BEHIND.
THEN THE ALLIANCE IS OVER!!
THANKS FOR YOUR HELP, BUT FROM HERE ON OUT...
...THIS IS MY SHOW!
NUH-UH.
NO.
WHAT?!


WE'RE **STAYING,** SIMPLE AS THAT!
WANNA **MAKE** SOMETHING OF IT?
FINE.
CHLICK
THEN MAKE YOURSELF **USEFUL** AND...
...HOLD ONTO THIS.

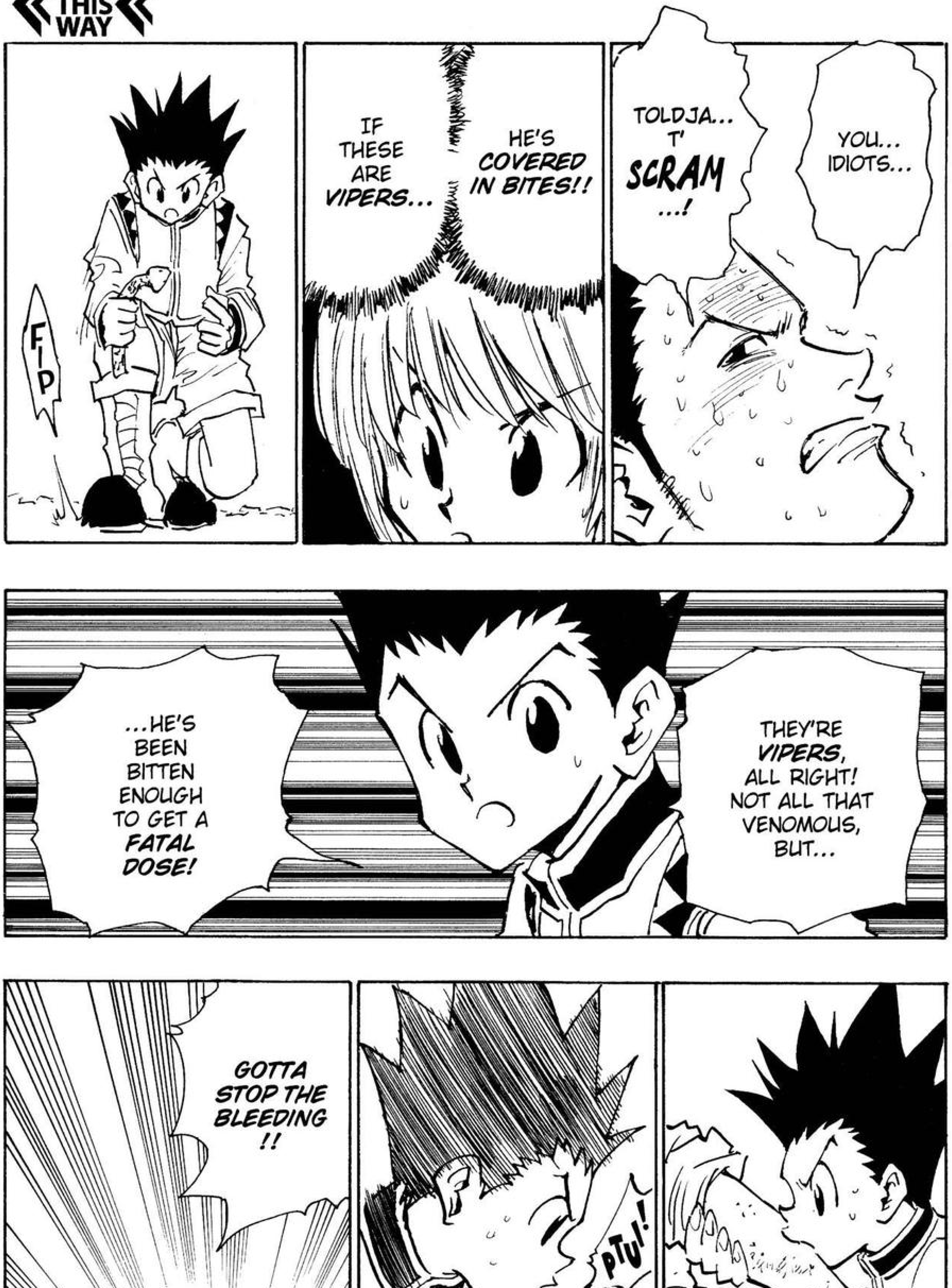

READ THIS WAY
PEEP
CHEEP
...

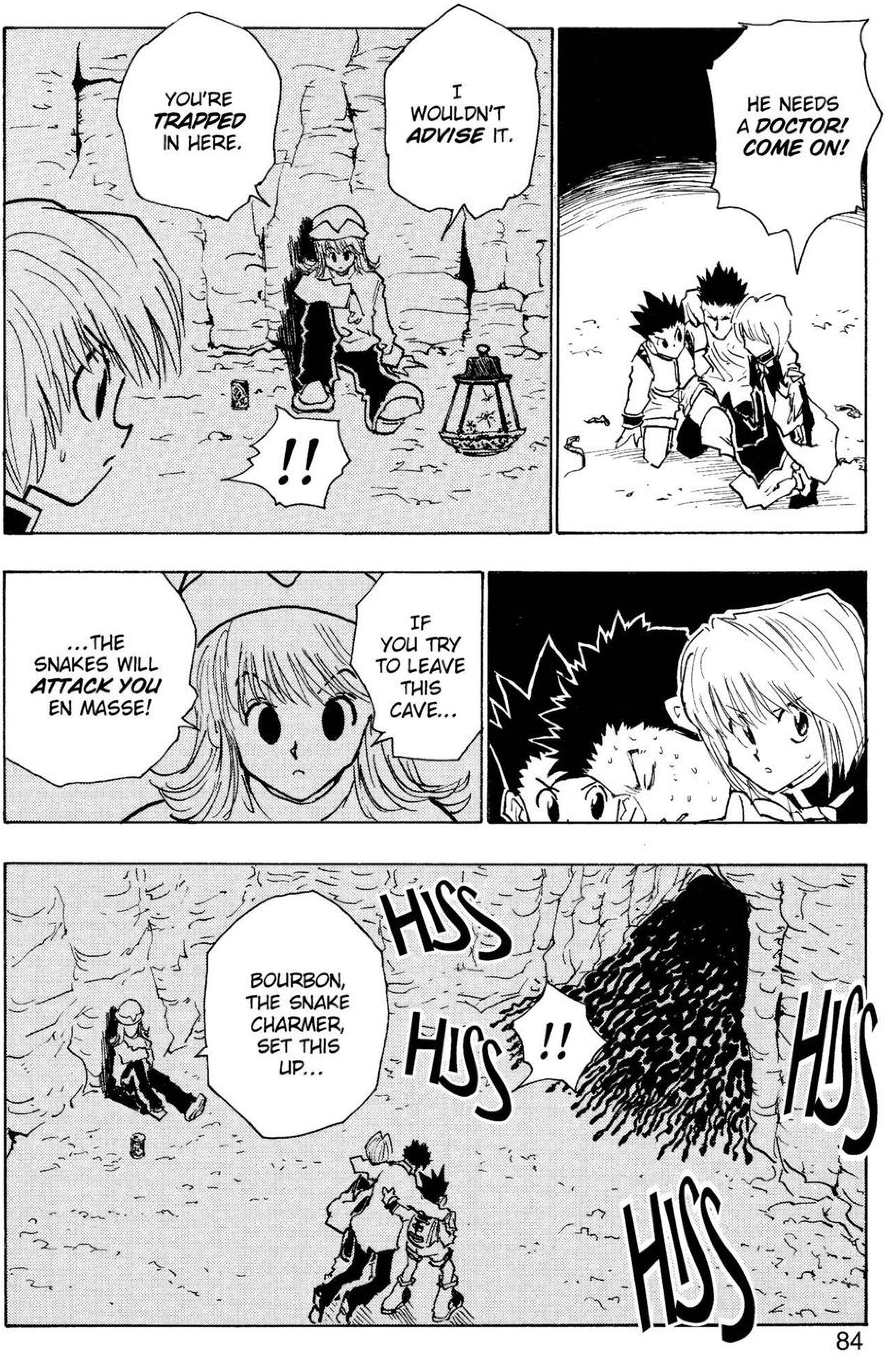

GON!! KURAPIKA!! STAY BACK!!
SNAKES !!
!!
...!
DASH

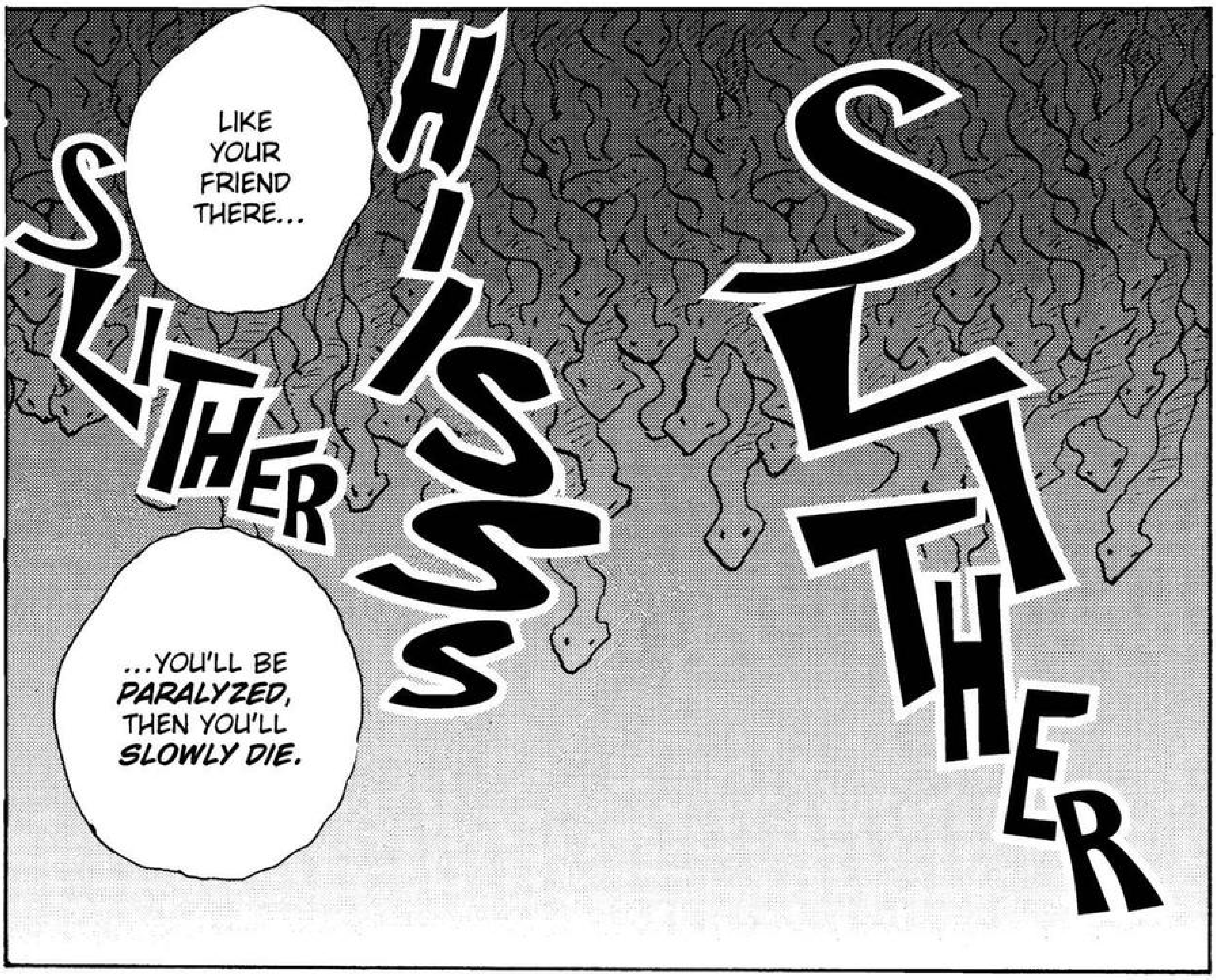

LEORIO !!
SLITHER
SLITHER
SLITHER
SLITHER
SLITHER
!!
TRUP
TRUP
TRUP
TRUP

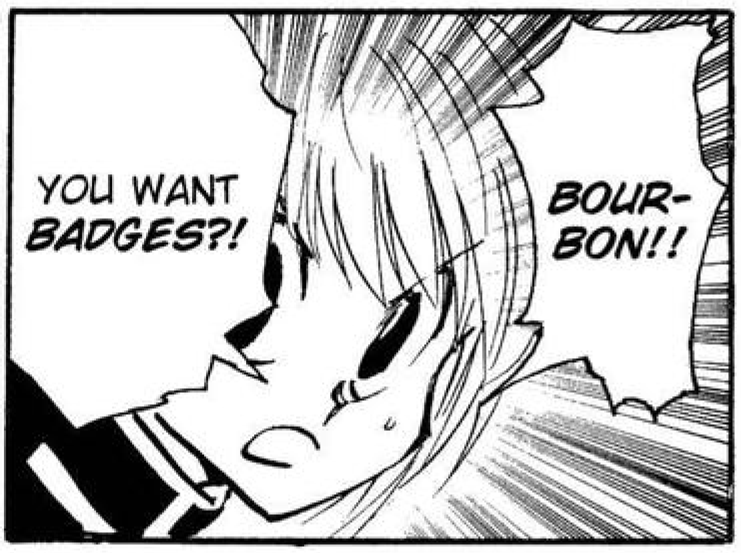

TWITCH
TWITCH
LEORIO!

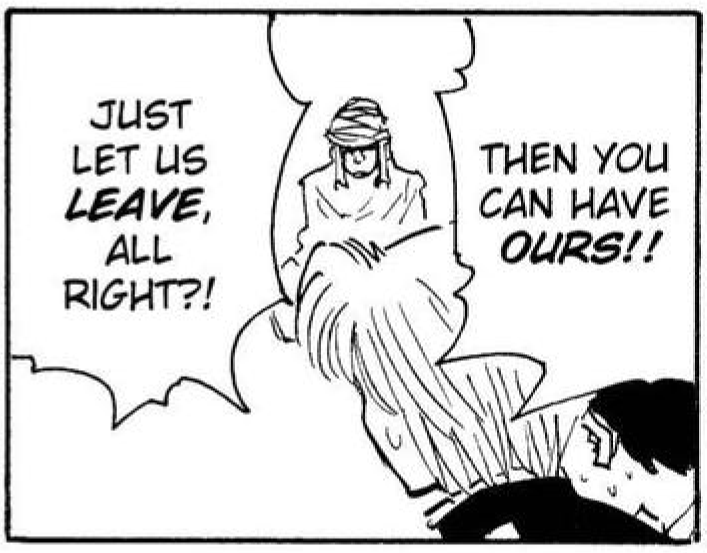
READ THIS WAY

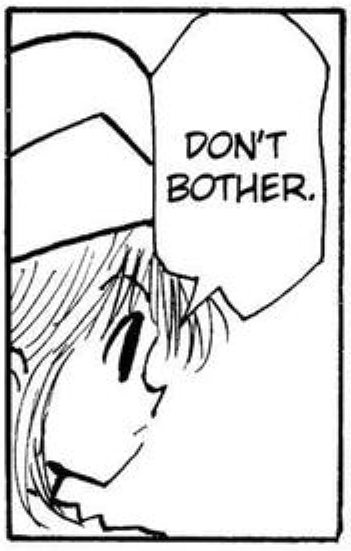

YOU... IDIOTS...
TOLDJA... T' SCRAM ...!
HE'S COVERED IN BITES!!
IF THESE ARE VIPERS...
FIP
THEY'RE VIPERS, ALL RIGHT! NOT ALL THAT VENOMOUS, BUT...
...HE'S BEEN BITTEN ENOUGH TO GET A FATAL DOSE!
PTU!
GOTTA STOP THE BLEEDING !!

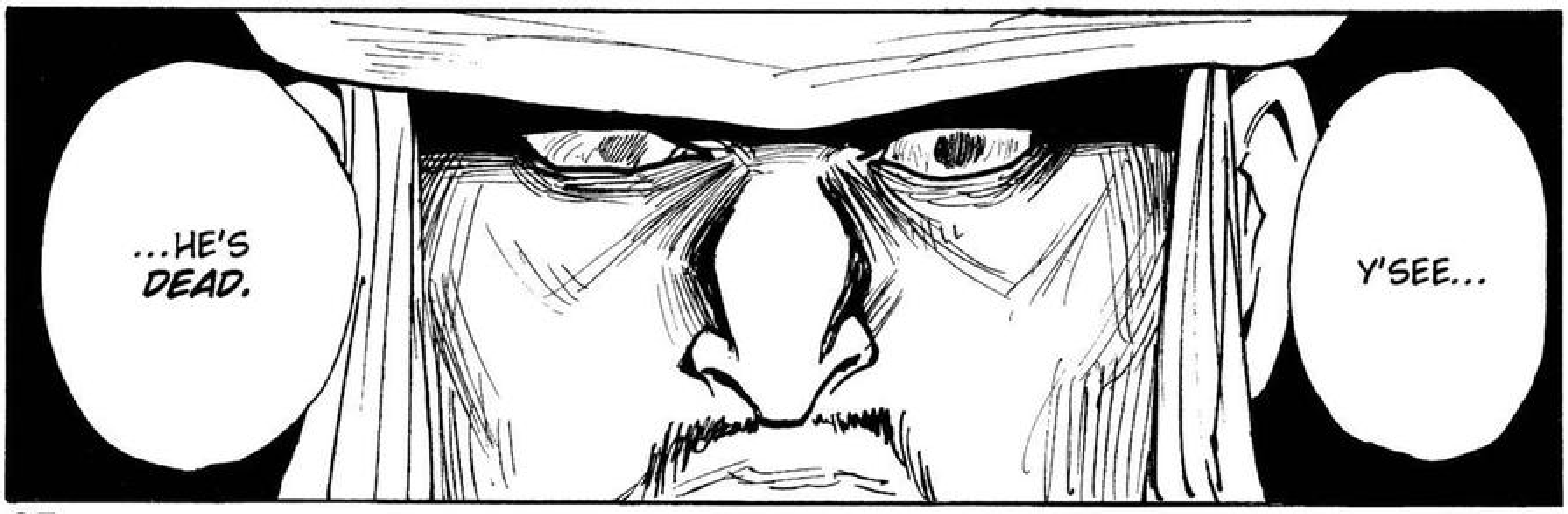

HE NEEDS A *DOCTOR!* *COME ON!*
I WOULDN'T *ADVISE* IT.
YOU'RE *TRAPPED* IN HERE.
!!
IF YOU TRY TO LEAVE THIS CAVE...
...THE SNAKES WILL *ATTACK YOU* EN MASSE!
HISS
HISS
HISS
HISS
!!
BOURBON, THE SNAKE CHARMER, SET THIS UP...

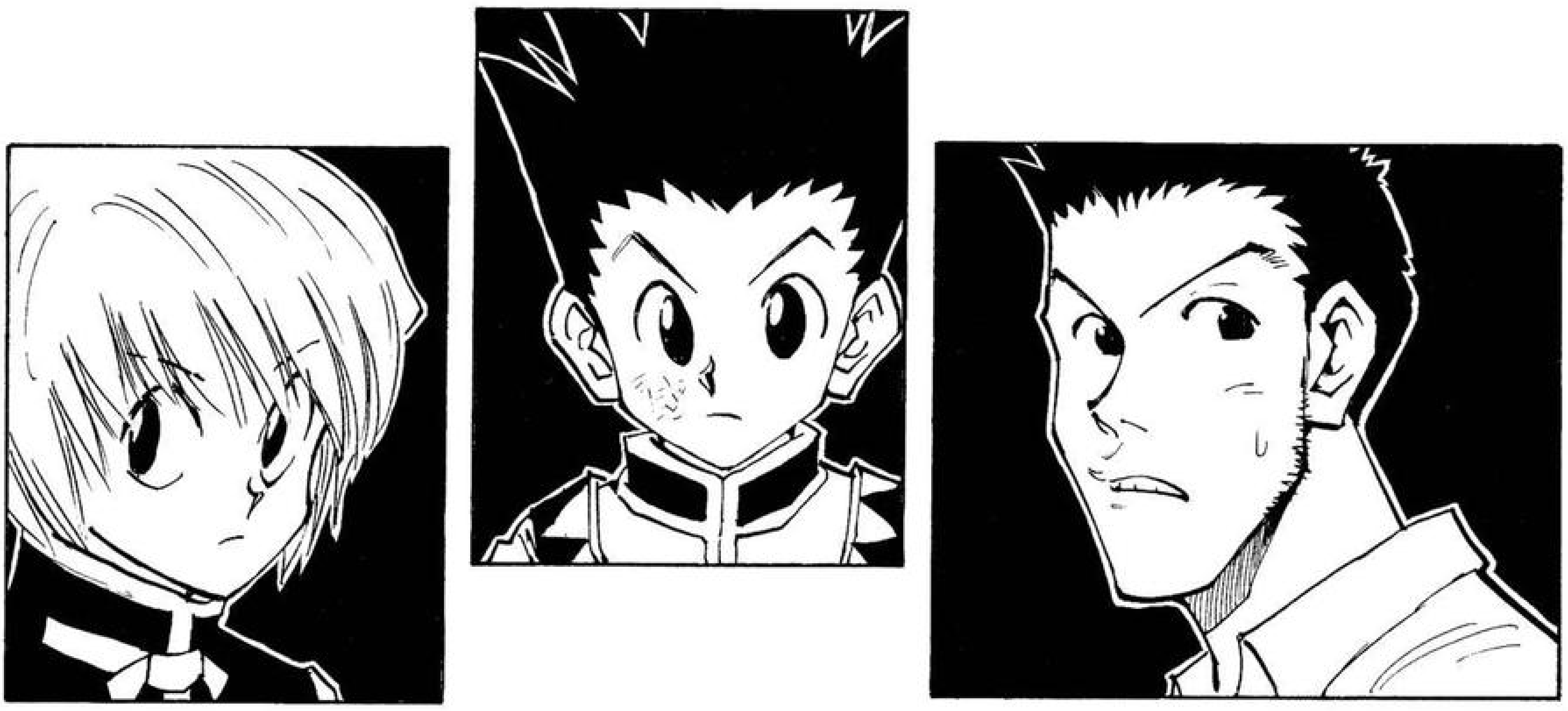

SLITHER
HISSS
LIKE YOUR FRIEND THERE…
SLITHER
…YOU'LL BE ***PARALYZED***, THEN YOU'LL ***SLOWLY DIE.***


BOURBON!!
YOU WANT ***BADGES?!***


THEN YOU CAN HAVE ***OURS!!***
JUST LET US ***LEAVE***, ALL RIGHT?!

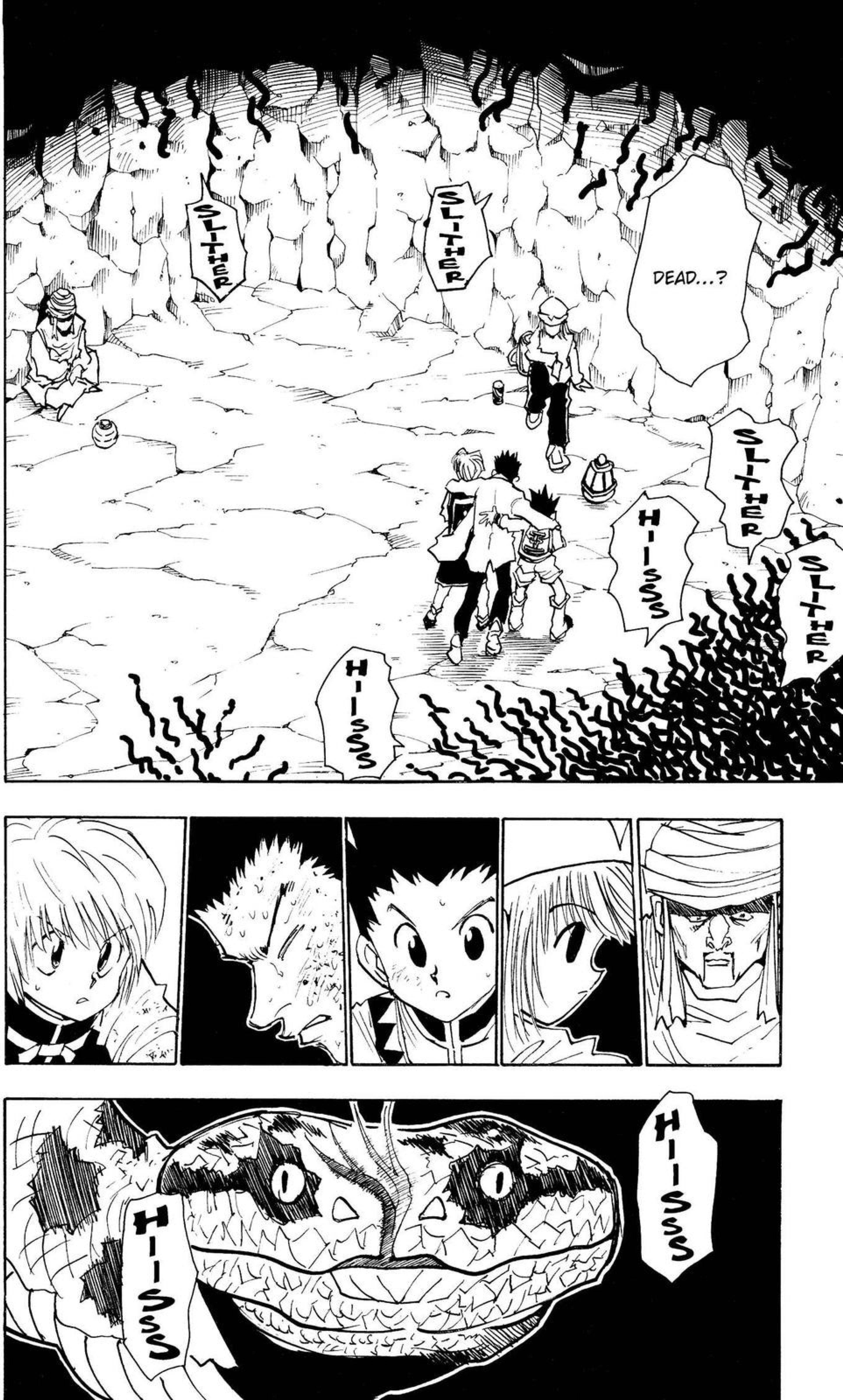

DON'T BOTHER.


Y'SEE…
…HE'S ***DEAD.***

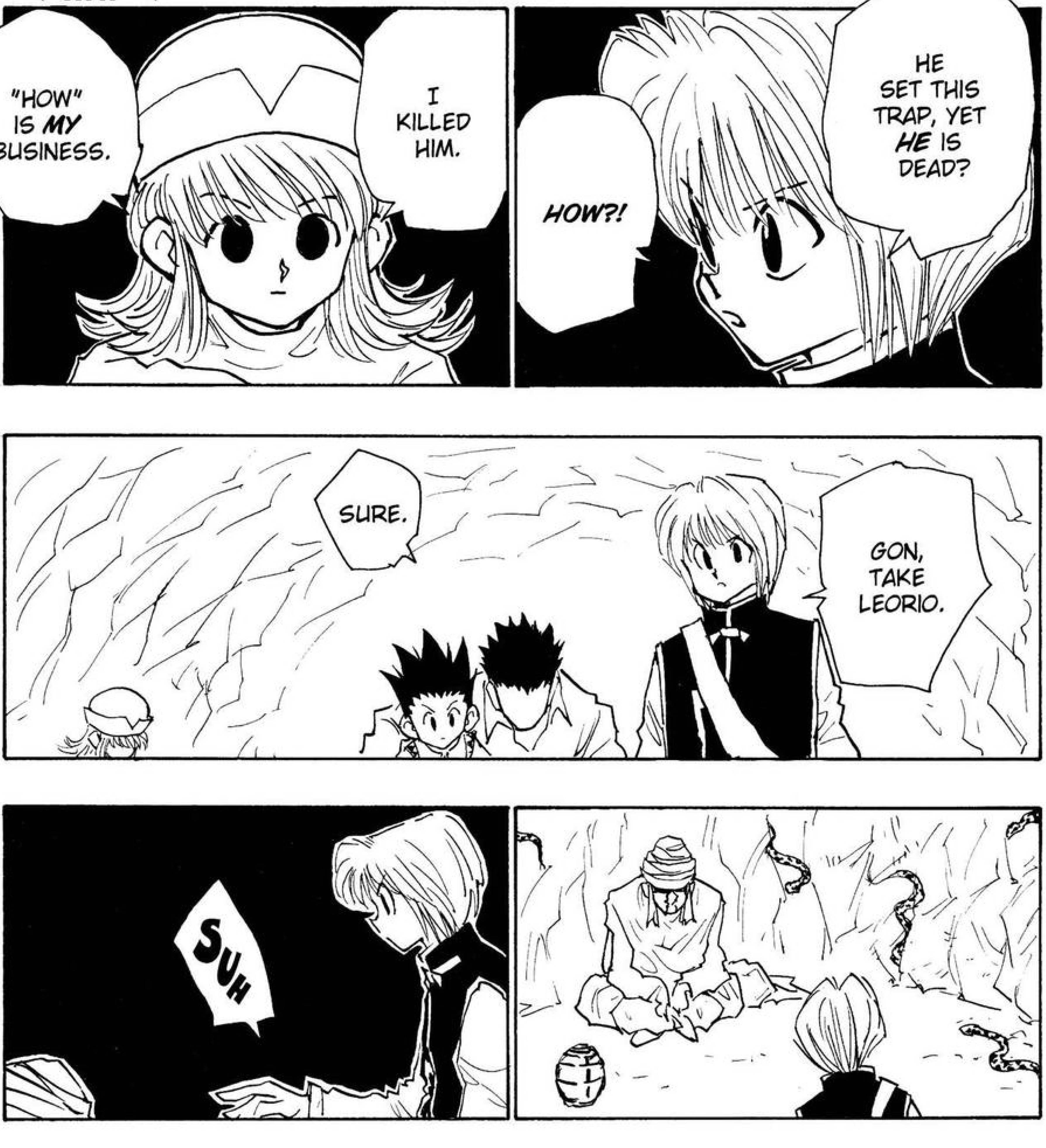


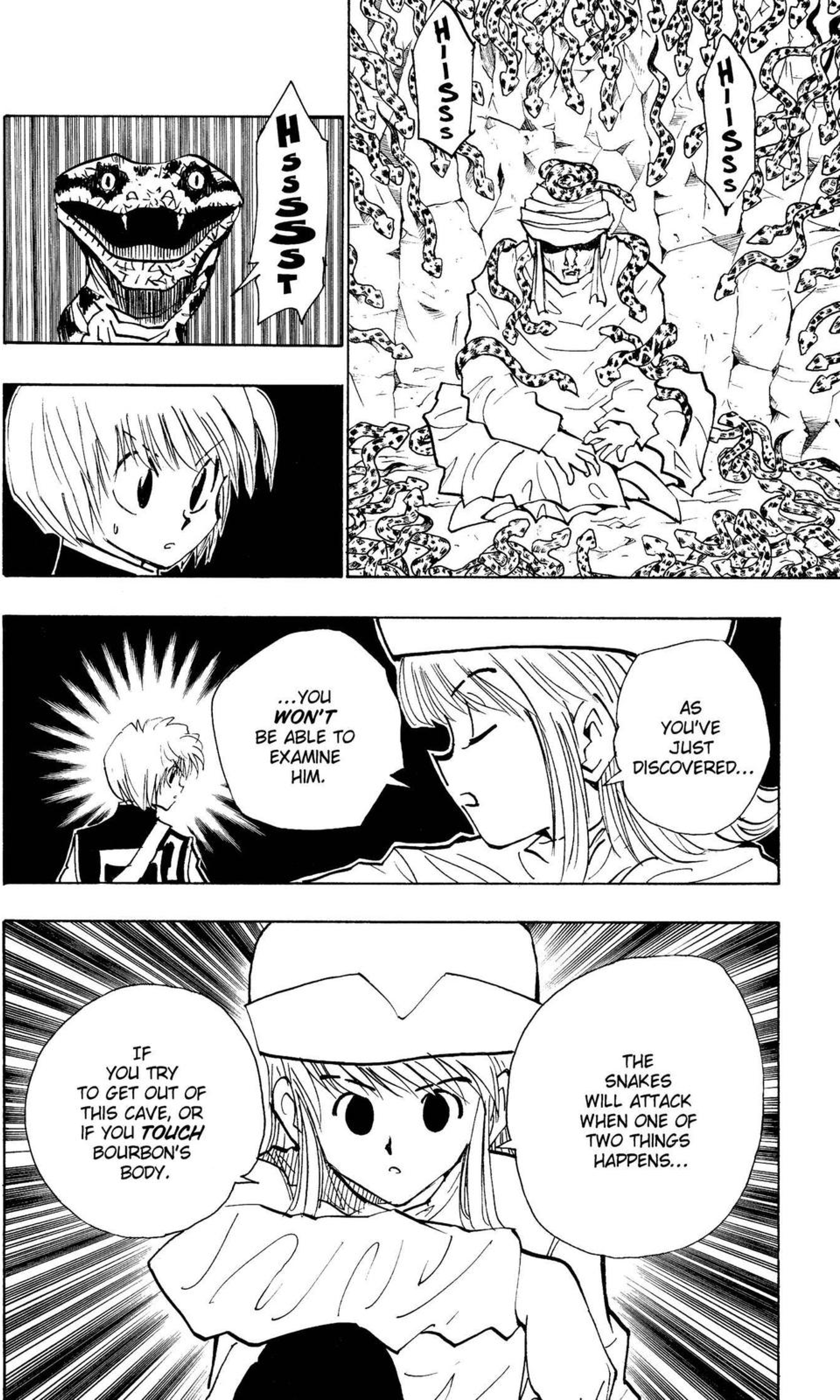
Chapter 31

By the Skin of Their Teeth...

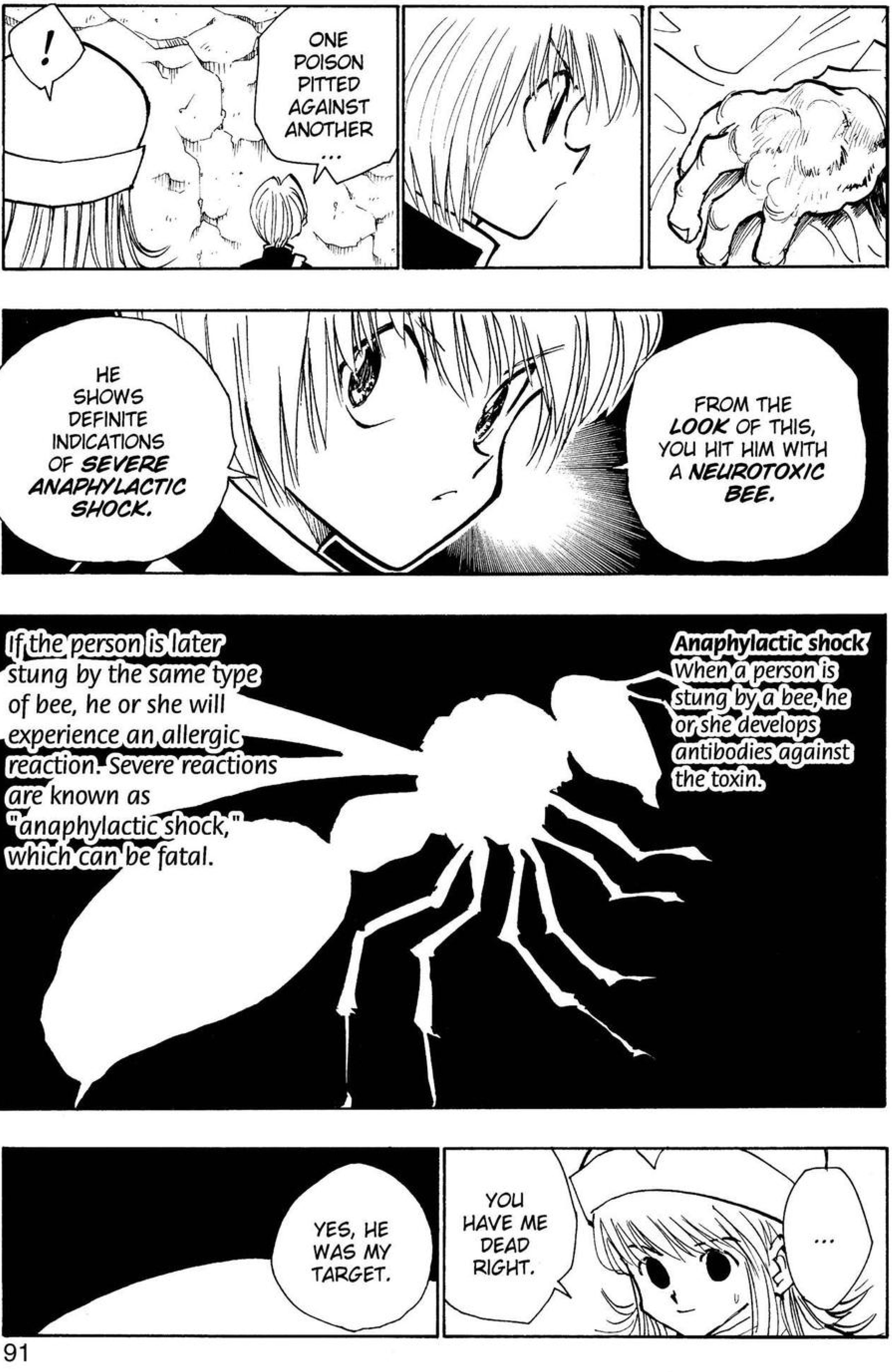

DEAD...?
SLITHER
SLITHER
SLITHER
SLITHER
HIISSS
HIISSS
HIISSS
HIISSS

READ THIS WAY


HE SET THIS TRAP, YET HE IS DEAD?
HOW?!
I KILLED HIM.
"HOW" IS MY BUSINESS.
GON, TAKE LEORIO.
SURE.
SUH
!!
SLITHER
SLITHER
SLITHER
SLITHER
SLITHER
SLITHER

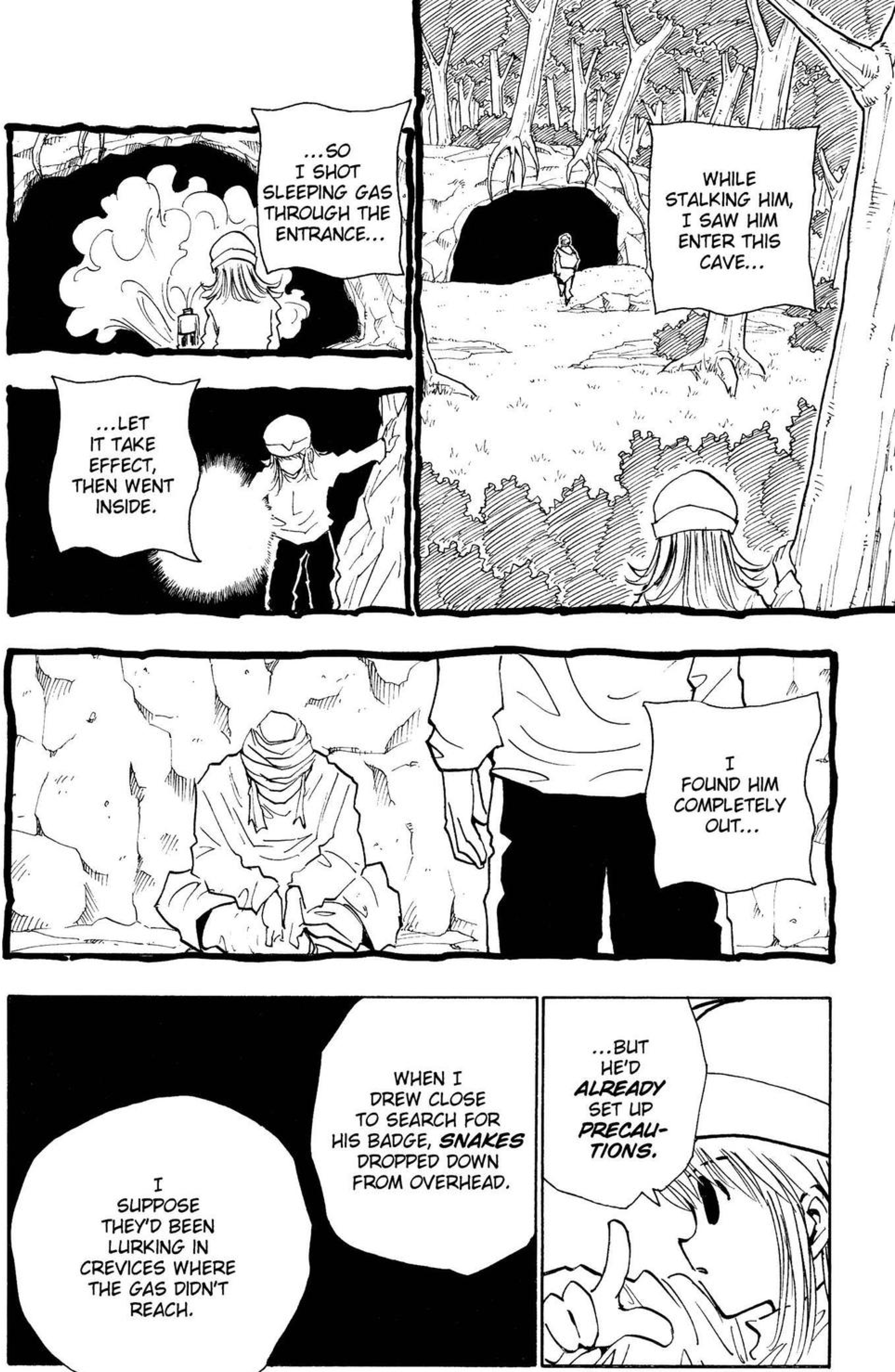

HISSS
HISSS
HSSSSST
AS YOU'VE JUST DISCOVERED...
...YOU *WON'T* BE ABLE TO EXAMINE HIM.
THE SNAKES WILL ATTACK WHEN ONE OF TWO THINGS HAPPENS...
IF YOU TRY TO GET OUT OF THIS CAVE, OR IF YOU *TOUCH* BOURBON'S BODY.

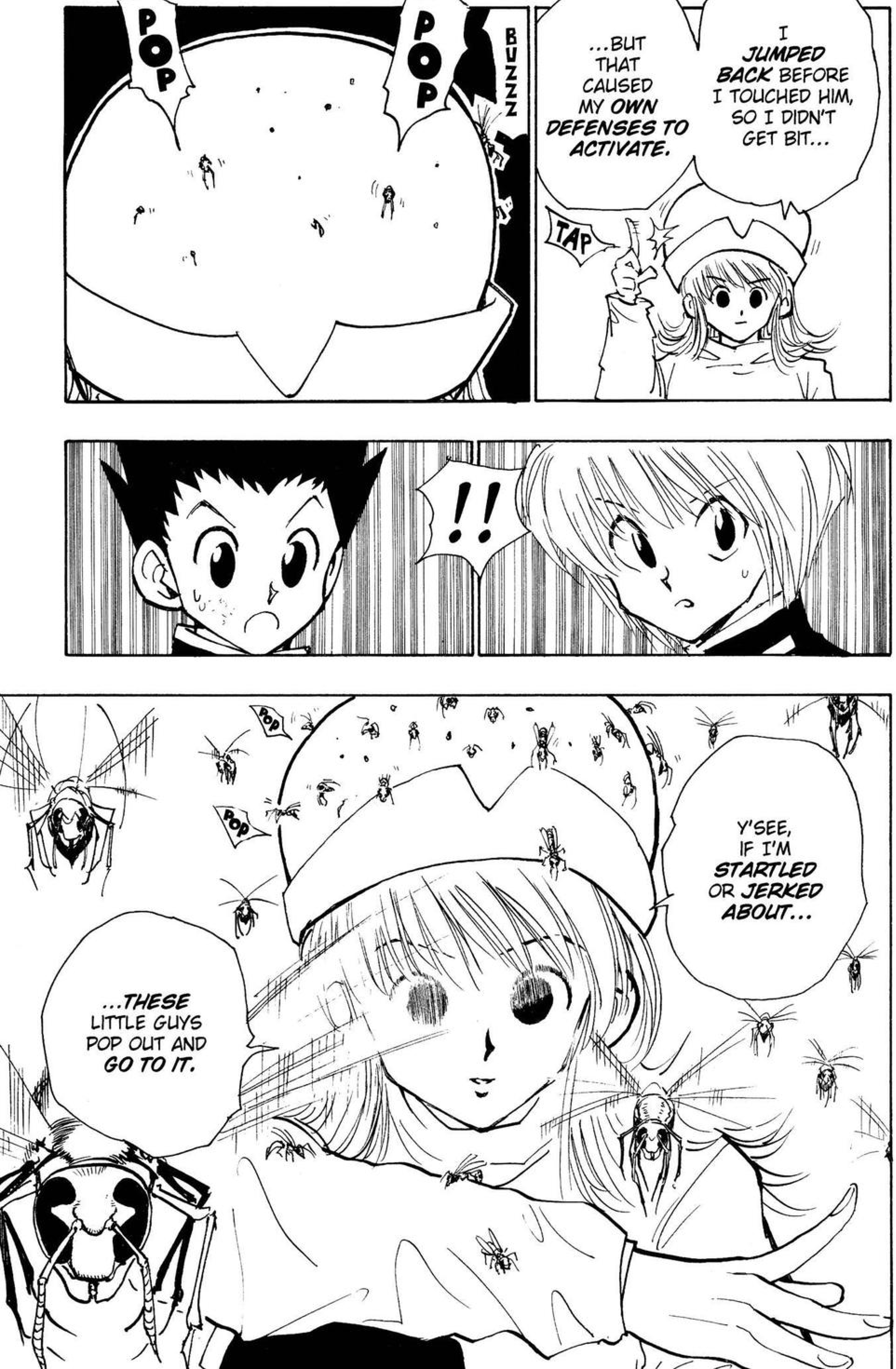
READ THIS WAY

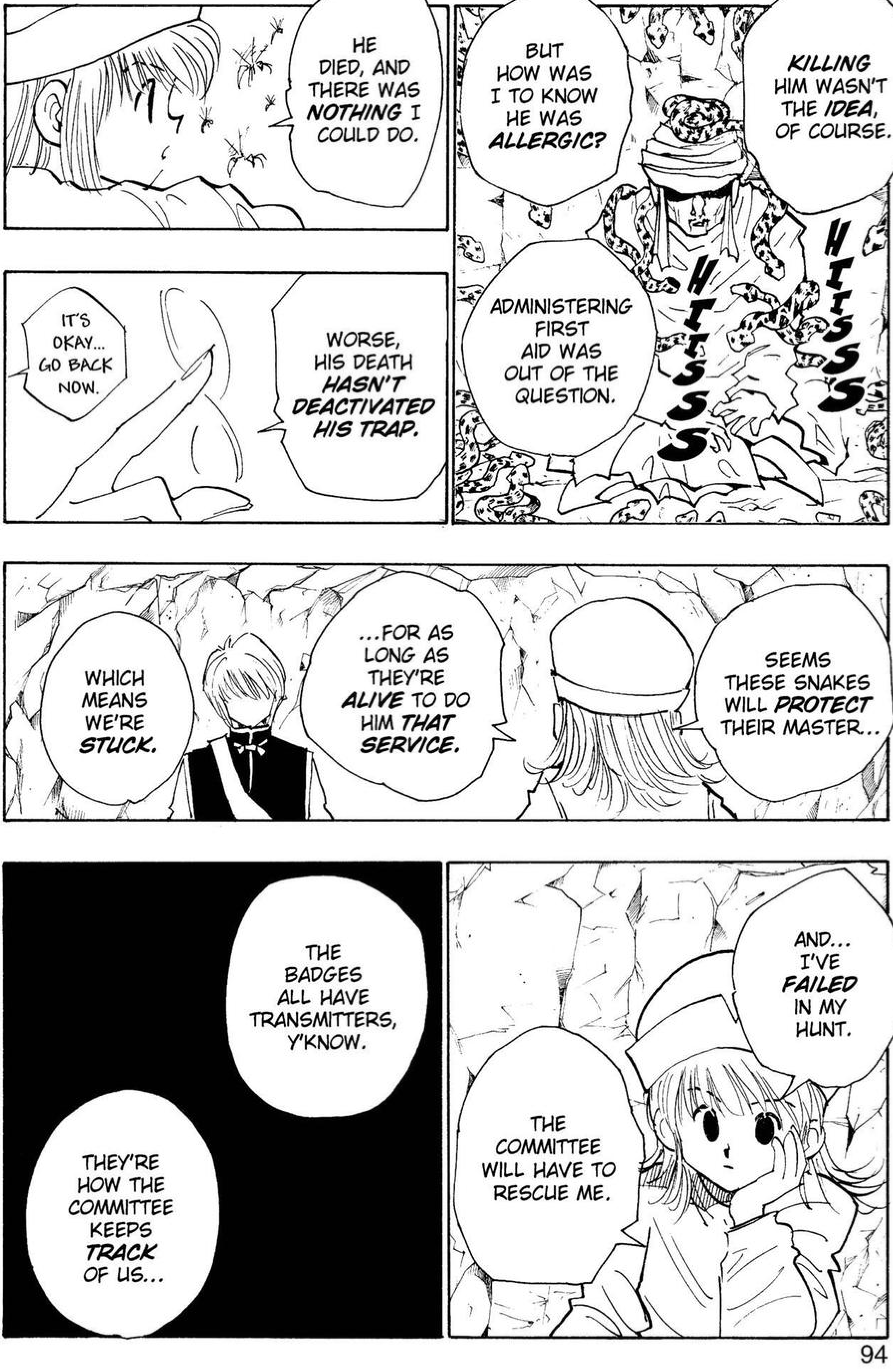

ONE POISON PITTED AGAINST ANOTHER ...
!
FROM THE *LOOK* OF THIS, YOU HIT HIM WITH A *NEUROTOXIC BEE.*
HE SHOWS DEFINITE INDICATIONS OF *SEVERE ANAPHYLACTIC SHOCK.*
...
YOU HAVE ME DEAD RIGHT.
YES, HE WAS MY TARGET.

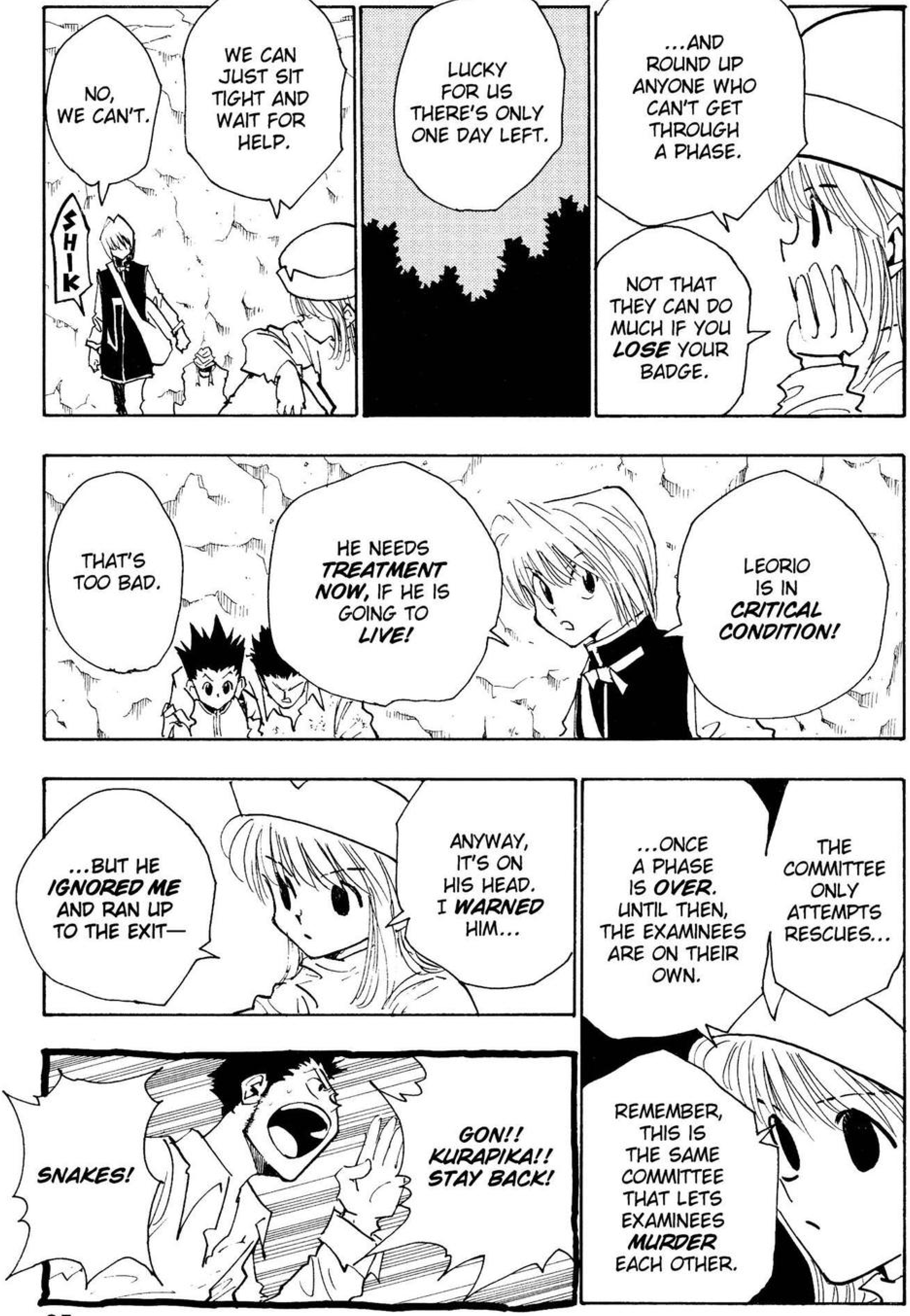
Anaphylactic shock
When a person is stung by a bee, he or she develops antibodies against the toxin.

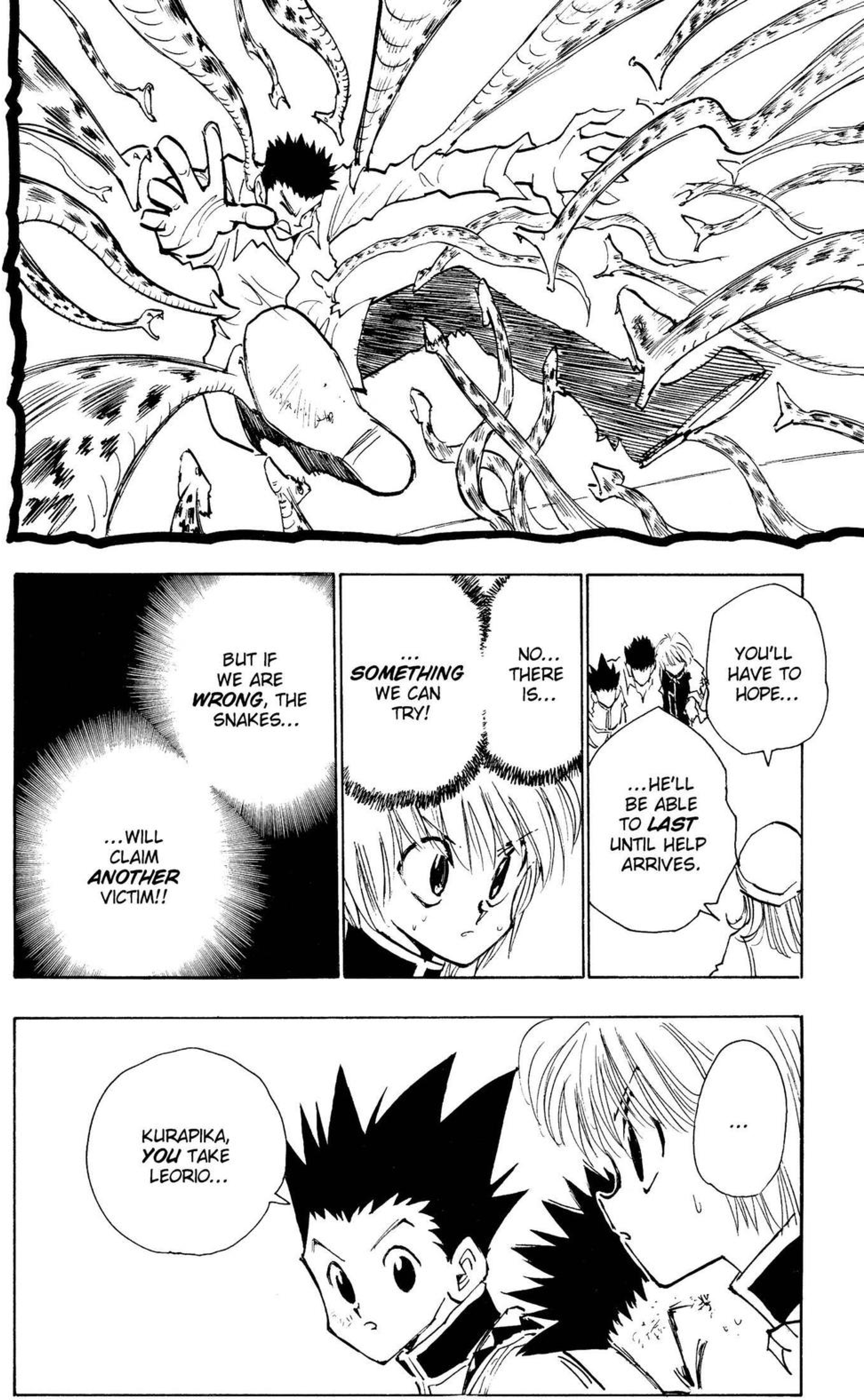
If the person is later stung by the same type of bee, he or she will experience an allergic reaction. Severe reactions are known as "anaphylactic shock," which can be fatal.

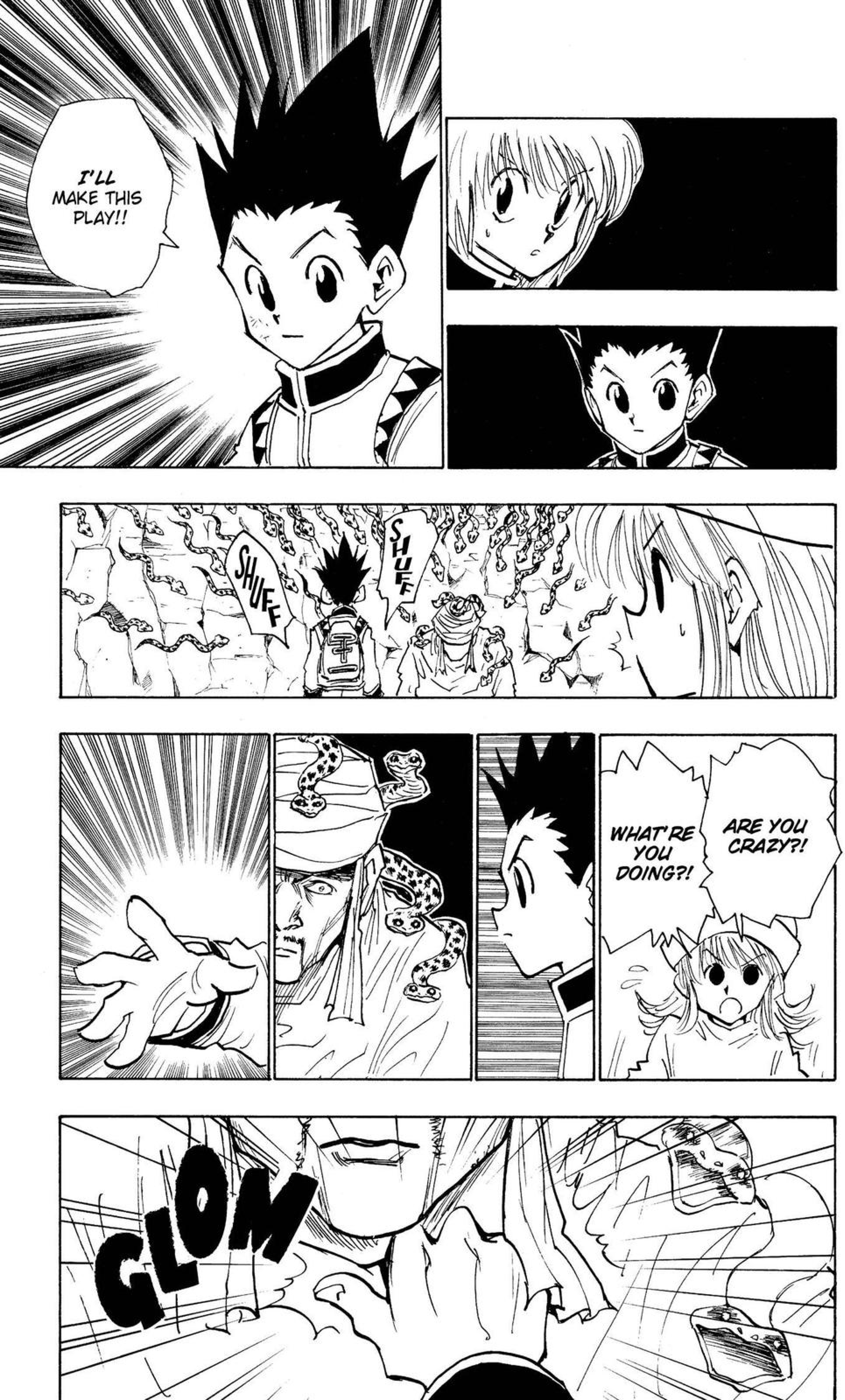

WHILE STALKING HIM, I SAW HIM ENTER THIS CAVE...
...SO I SHOT SLEEPING GAS THROUGH THE ENTRANCE...
...LET IT TAKE EFFECT, THEN WENT INSIDE.
I FOUND HIM COMPLETELY OUT...
...BUT HE'D *ALREADY* SET UP *PRECAUTIONS.*
WHEN I DREW CLOSE TO SEARCH FOR HIS BADGE, *SNAKES* DROPPED DOWN FROM OVERHEAD.
I SUPPOSE THEY'D BEEN LURKING IN CREVICES WHERE THE GAS DIDN'T REACH.

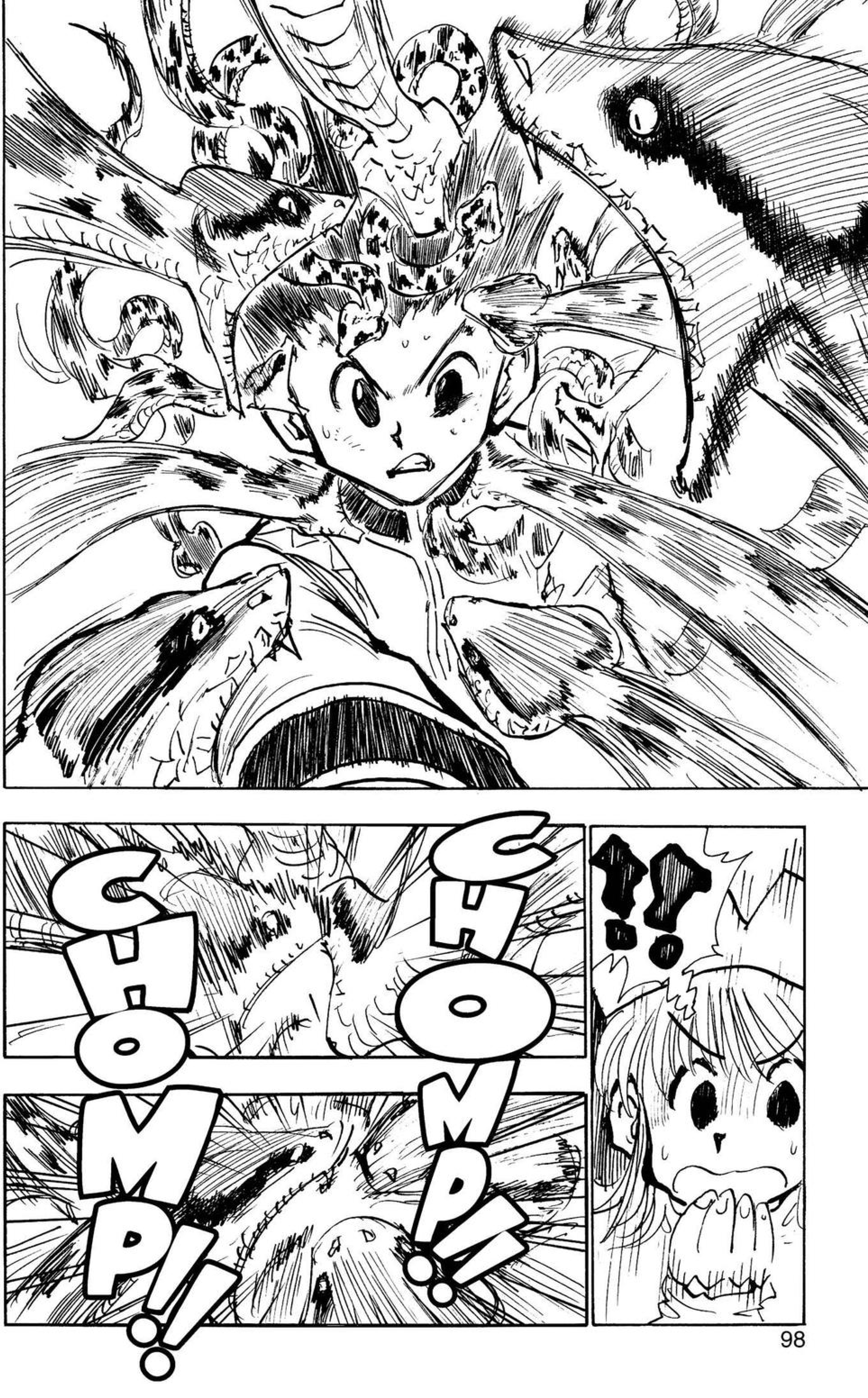

I JUMPED BACK BEFORE I TOUCHED HIM, SO I DIDN'T GET BIT...
...BUT THAT CAUSED MY OWN DEFENSES TO ACTIVATE.
TAP
BUZZZ
POP
POP
!!
Y'SEE, IF I'M STARTLED OR JERKED ABOUT...
POP
POP
...THESE LITTLE GUYS POP OUT AND GO TO IT.

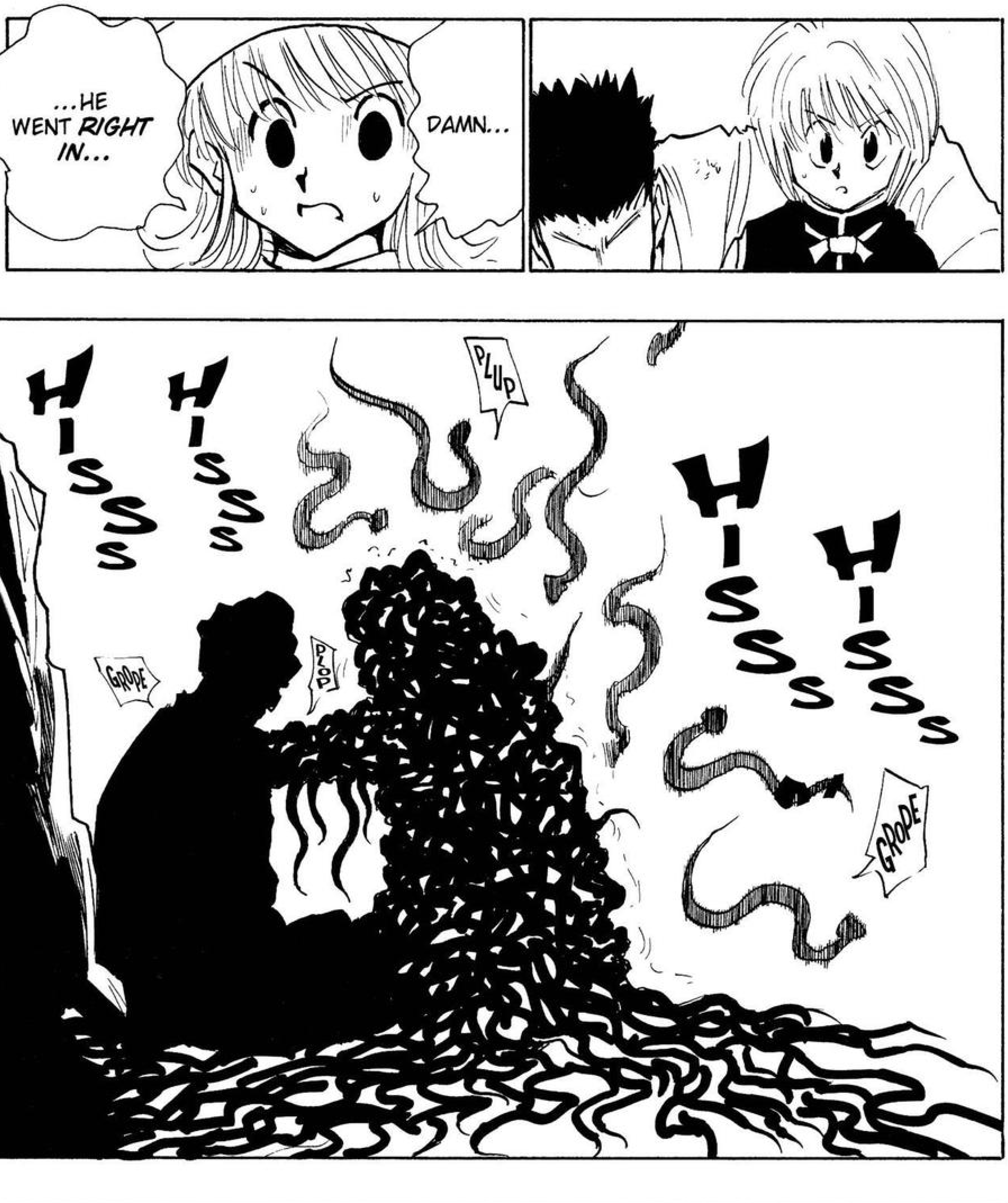

KILLING HIM WASN'T THE IDEA, OF COURSE.
BUT HOW WAS I TO KNOW HE WAS ALLERGIC?
ADMINISTERING FIRST AID WAS OUT OF THE QUESTION.
HISSSS
HISSSS
HE DIED, AND THERE WAS NOTHING I COULD DO.
WORSE, HIS DEATH HASN'T DEACTIVATED HIS TRAP.
IT'S OKAY... GO BACK NOW.
SEEMS THESE SNAKES WILL PROTECT THEIR MASTER...
...FOR AS LONG AS THEY'RE ALIVE TO DO HIM THAT SERVICE.
WHICH MEANS WE'RE STUCK.
AND... I'VE FAILED IN MY HUNT.
THE COMMITTEE WILL HAVE TO RESCUE ME.
THE BADGES ALL HAVE TRANSMITTERS, Y'KNOW.
THEY'RE HOW THE COMMITTEE KEEPS TRACK OF US...

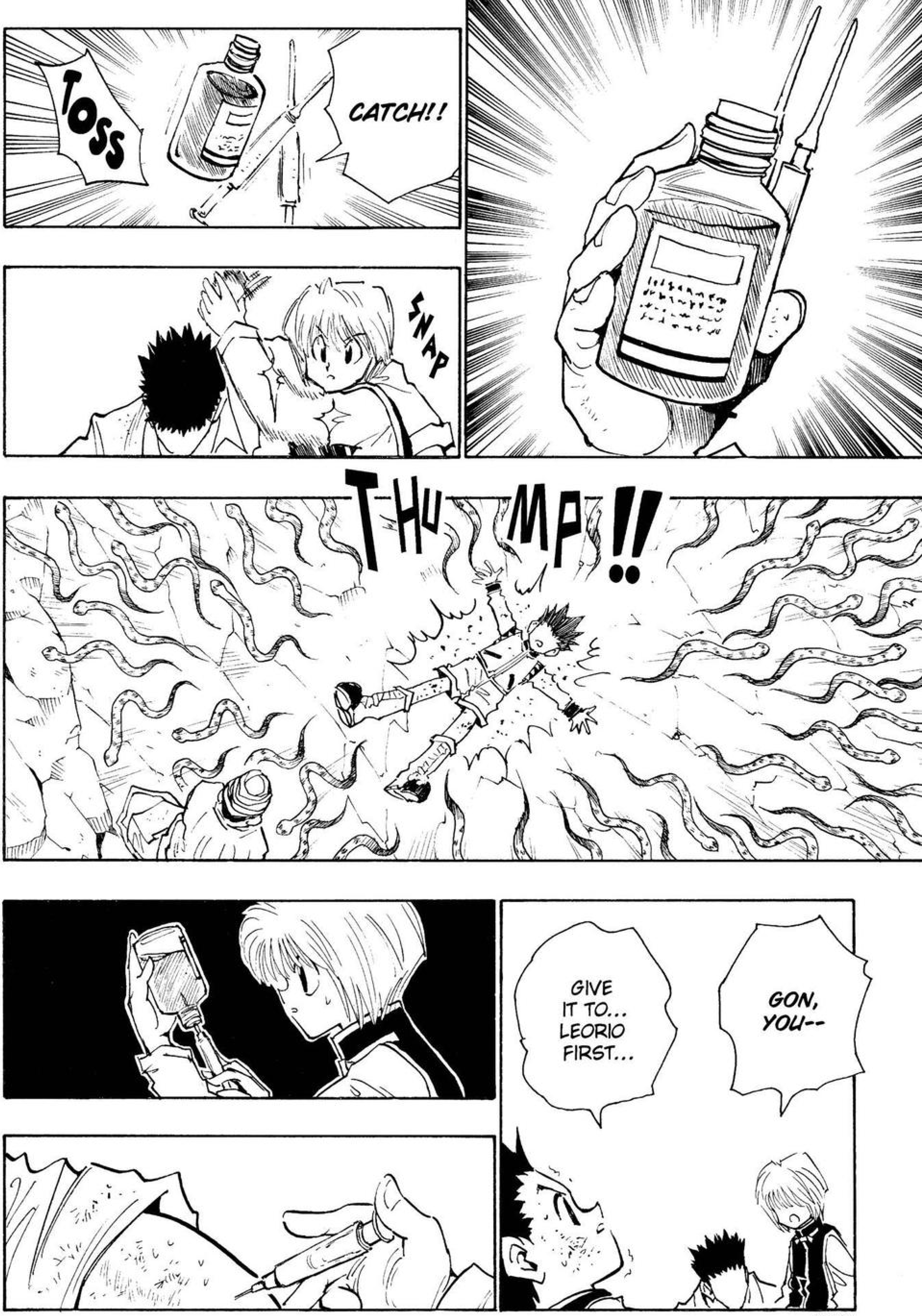

...AND ROUND UP ANYONE WHO CAN'T GET THROUGH A PHASE.
NOT THAT THEY CAN DO MUCH IF YOU **LOSE** YOUR BADGE.
LUCKY FOR US THERE'S ONLY ONE DAY LEFT.
WE CAN JUST SIT TIGHT AND WAIT FOR HELP.
NO, WE CAN'T.
SHIK
LEORIO IS IN **CRITICAL CONDITION!**
HE NEEDS **TREATMENT NOW,** IF HE IS GOING TO **LIVE!**
THAT'S TOO BAD.
THE COMMITTEE ONLY ATTEMPTS RESCUES...
...ONCE A PHASE IS **OVER.** UNTIL THEN, THE EXAMINEES ARE ON THEIR OWN.
REMEMBER, THIS IS THE SAME COMMITTEE THAT LETS EXAMINEES **MURDER** EACH OTHER.
ANYWAY, IT'S ON HIS HEAD. I **WARNED** HIM...
...BUT HE **IGNORED ME** AND RAN UP TO THE EXIT—
GON!! KURAPIKA!! STAY BACK!
SNAKES!

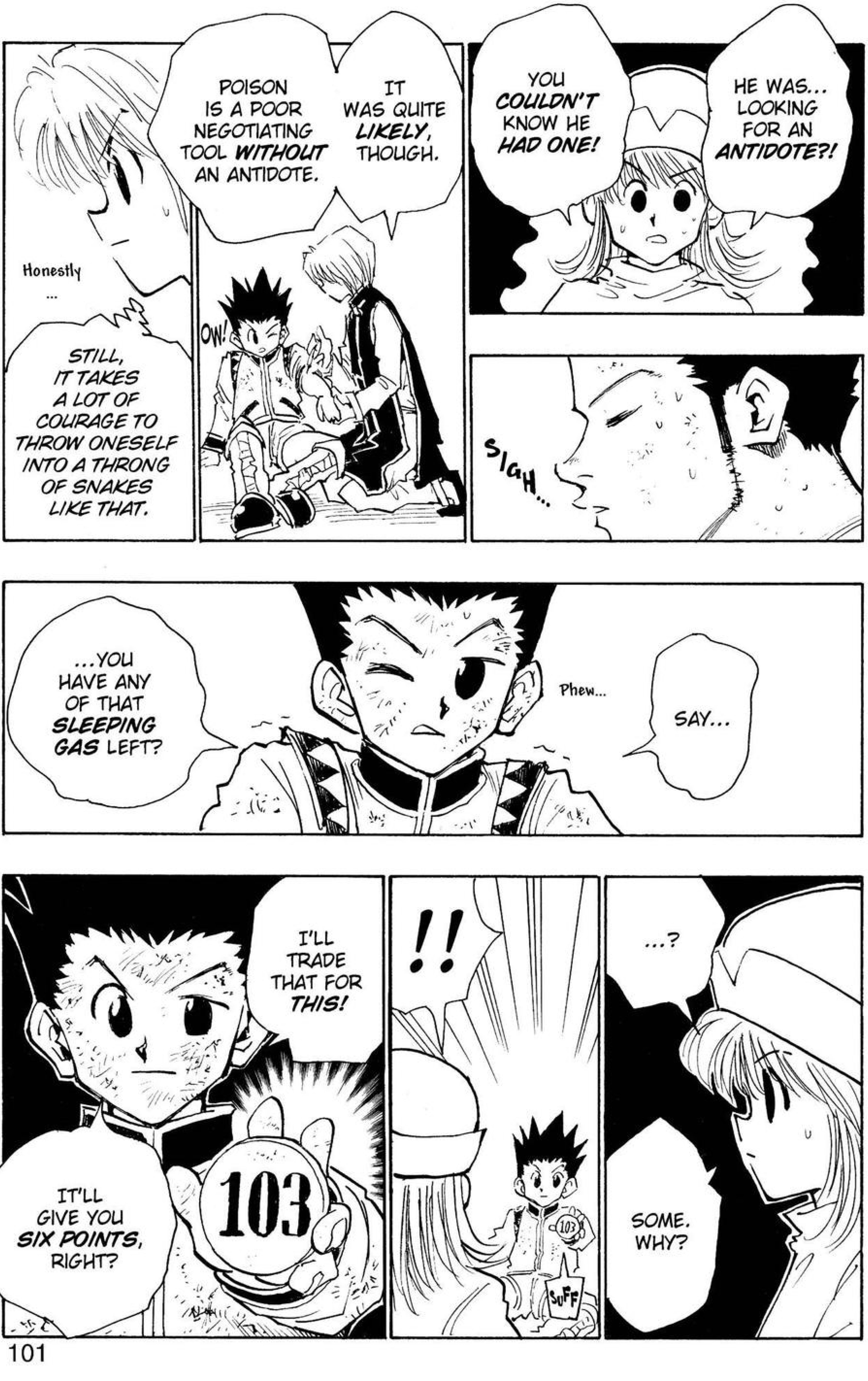

YOU'LL HAVE TO HOPE...
...HE'LL BE ABLE TO LAST UNTIL HELP ARRIVES.
NO... THERE IS...
...SOMETHING WE CAN TRY!
BUT IF WE ARE WRONG, THE SNAKES...
...WILL CLAIM ANOTHER VICTIM!!
...
KURAPIKA, YOU TAKE LEORIO...

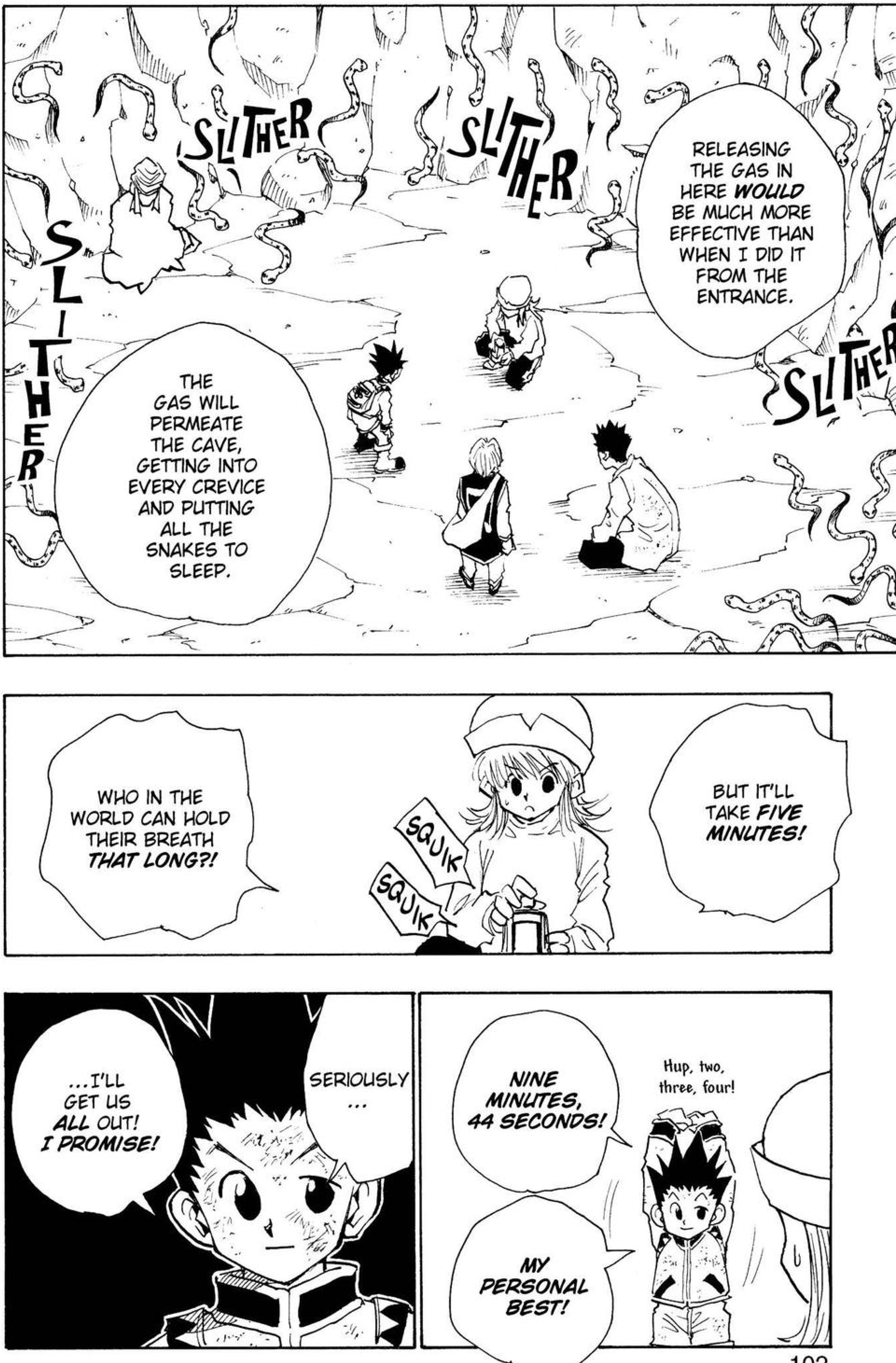

I'LL MAKE THIS PLAY!!
SHUFF
SHUFF
ARE YOU CRAZY?!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!
GLOM


!!
CHOMP!!
CHOMP!!

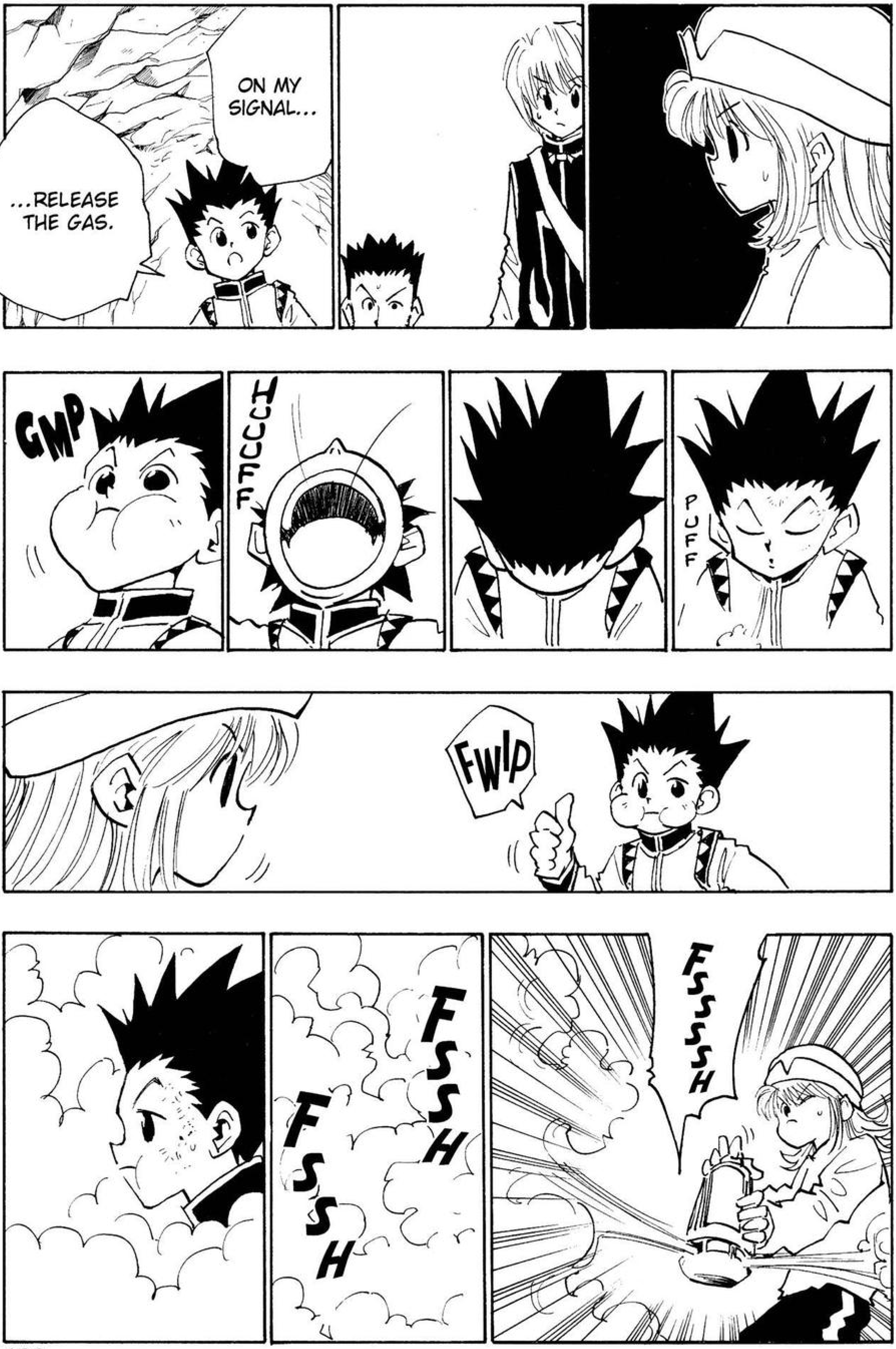

DAMN...
...HE WENT RIGHT IN...
HISSSS
HISSSS
GROPE
PLUP
PLOP
GROPE
HISSS
HISSS
FOUND IT!!

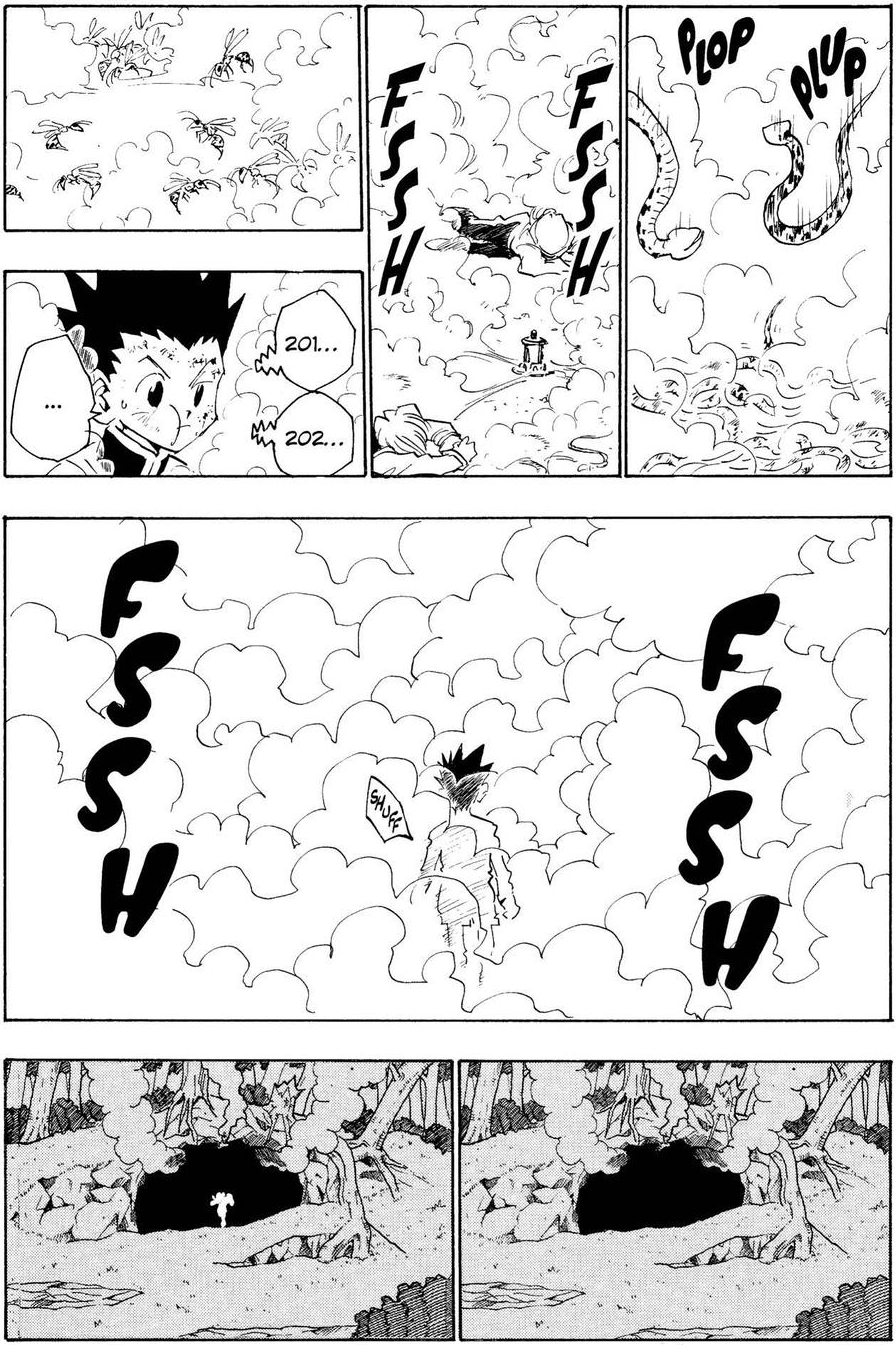

CATCH!!
TOSS
SNAP
THUMP!!
GON, YOU--
GIVE IT TO... LEORIO FIRST...

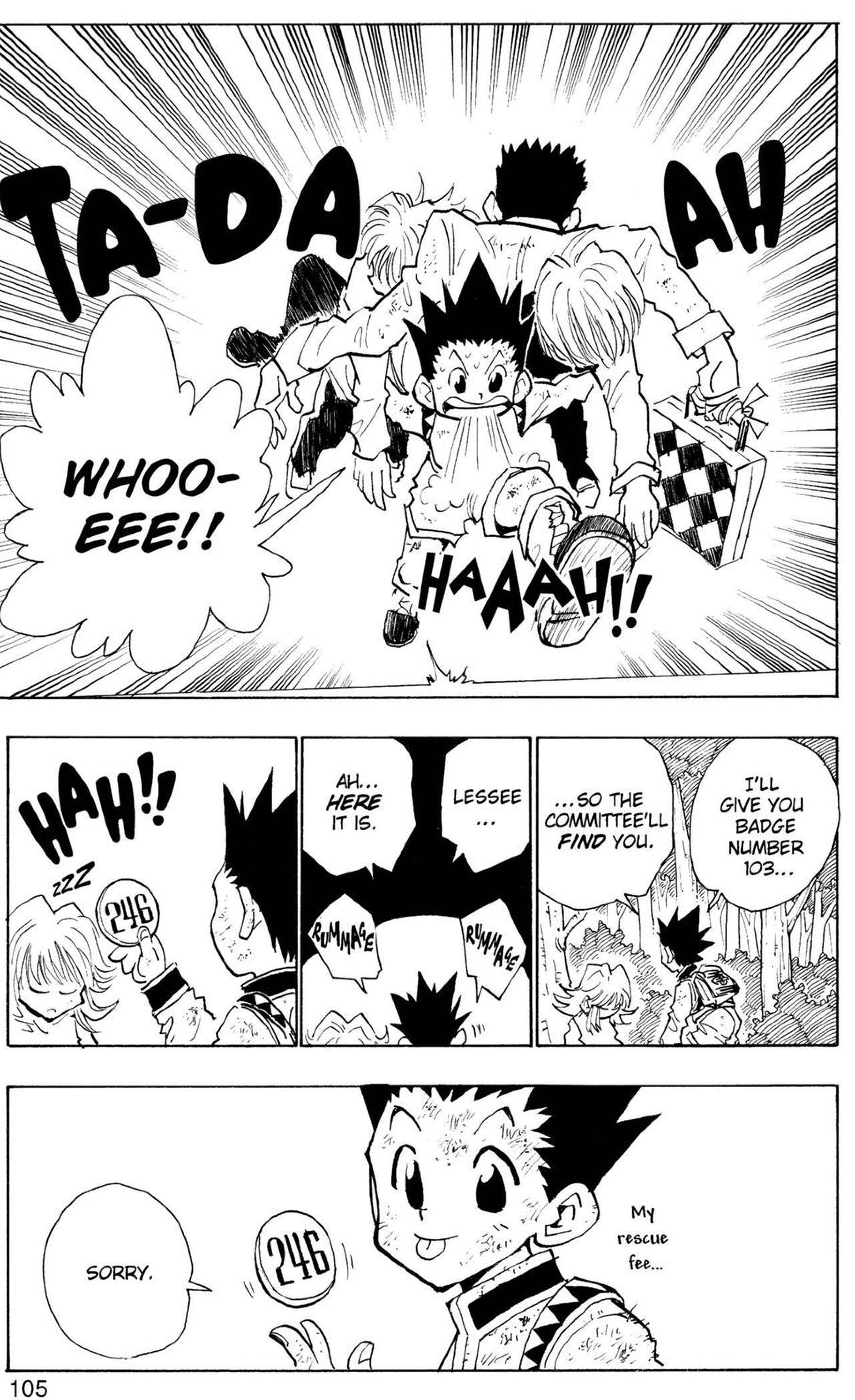

HE WAS... LOOKING FOR AN **ANTIDOTE?!**
YOU **COULDN'T** KNOW HE **HAD ONE!**
IT WAS QUITE ***LIKELY***, THOUGH.
POISON IS A POOR NEGOTIATING TOOL ***WITHOUT*** AN ANTIDOTE.
OW!
Honestly ...
STILL, IT TAKES A LOT OF COURAGE TO THROW ONESELF INTO A THRONG OF SNAKES LIKE THAT.
SIGH...
SAY...
Phew...
...YOU HAVE ANY OF THAT ***SLEEPING GAS*** LEFT?
...?
SOME. WHY?
!!
SUFF
103
I'LL TRADE THAT FOR ***THIS!***
103
IT'LL GIVE YOU ***SIX POINTS***, RIGHT?

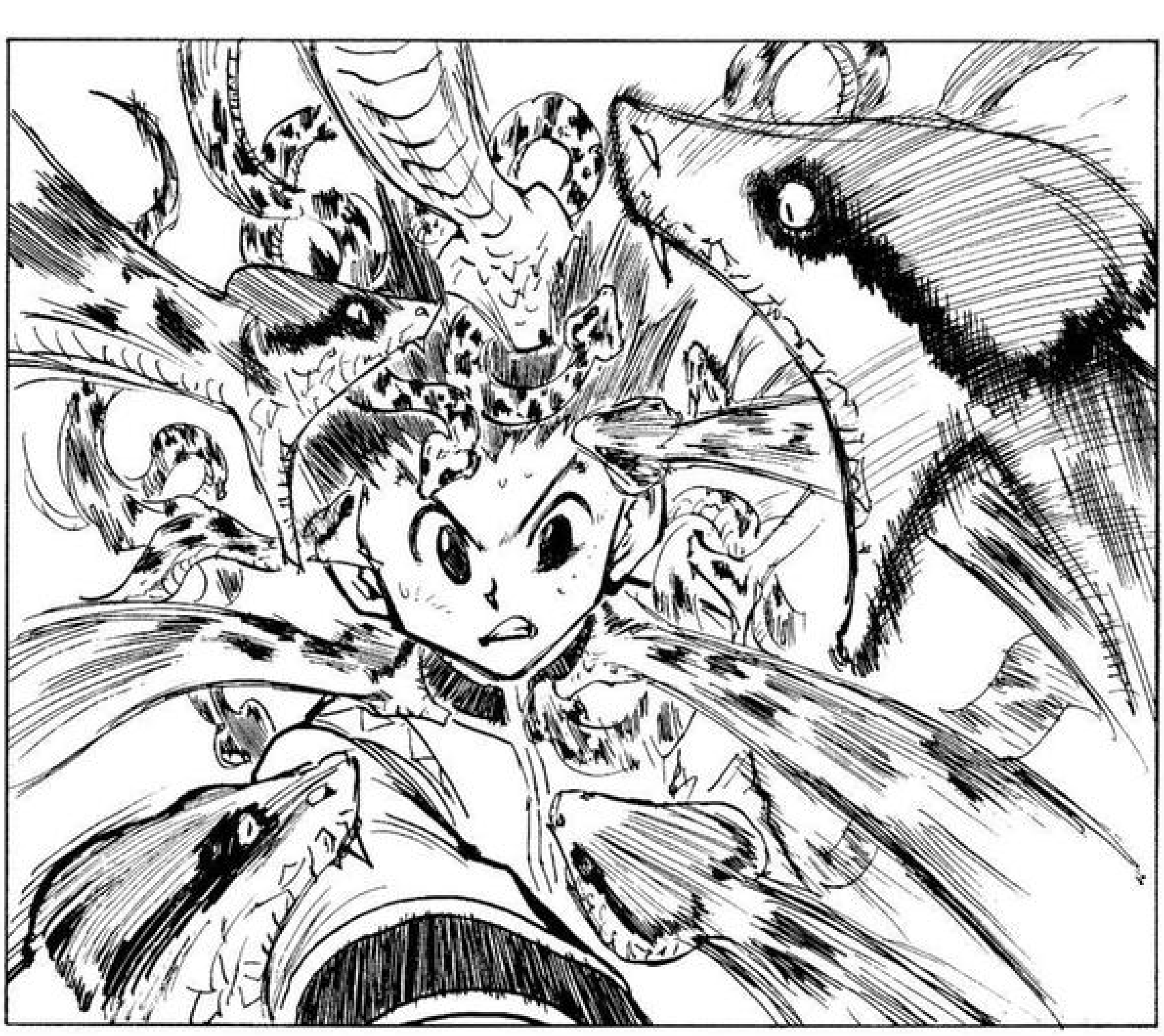

SLITHER
SLITHER
SLITHER
SLITHER
RELEASING THE GAS IN HERE WOULD BE MUCH MORE EFFECTIVE THAN WHEN I DID IT FROM THE ENTRANCE.
THE GAS WILL PERMEATE THE CAVE, GETTING INTO EVERY CREVICE AND PUTTING ALL THE SNAKES TO SLEEP.
BUT IT'LL TAKE FIVE MINUTES!
SQUIK
SQUIK
WHO IN THE WORLD CAN HOLD THEIR BREATH THAT LONG?!
Hup, two, three, four!
NINE MINUTES, 44 SECONDS!
MY PERSONAL BEST!
SERIOUSLY …
…I'LL GET US ALL OUT! I PROMISE!

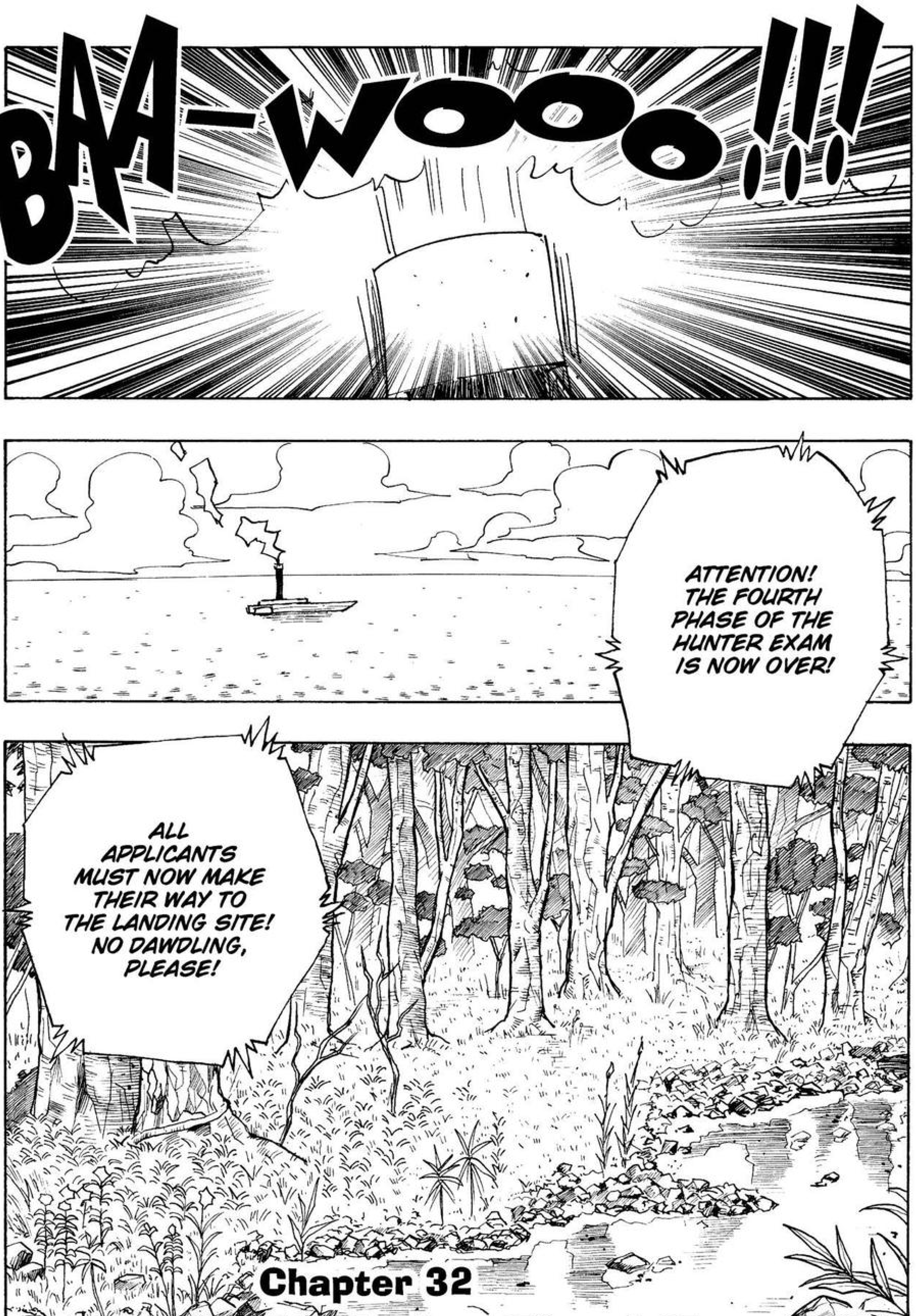
READ THIS WAY


ON MY SIGNAL...
...RELEASE THE GAS.
PUFF
HUUUFF
GMP
FWIP
FSSSSH
FSSH
FSSH


PLOP
PLUP
FSSH
FSSH
201...
202...
...
FSSH
FSSH
SHUFF

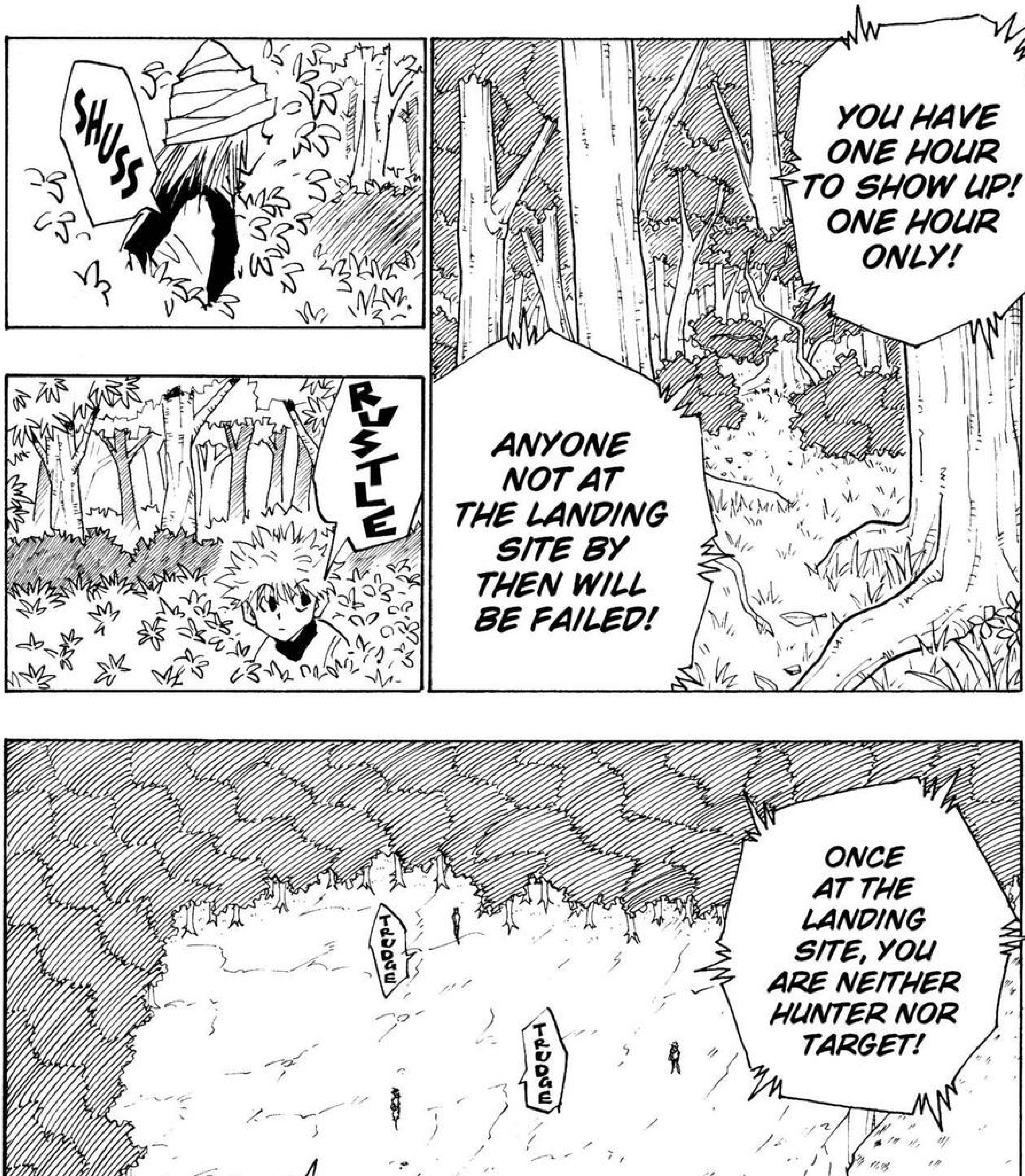

AH
TA-DA
HAAAH!!
WHOO-EEE!!
I'LL GIVE YOU BADGE NUMBER 103...
...SO THE COMMITTEE'LL *FIND* YOU.
LESSEE ...
AH... *HERE* IT IS.
RUMMAGE
RUMMAGE
HAH!!
zzZ
246
My rescue fee...
246
SORRY.



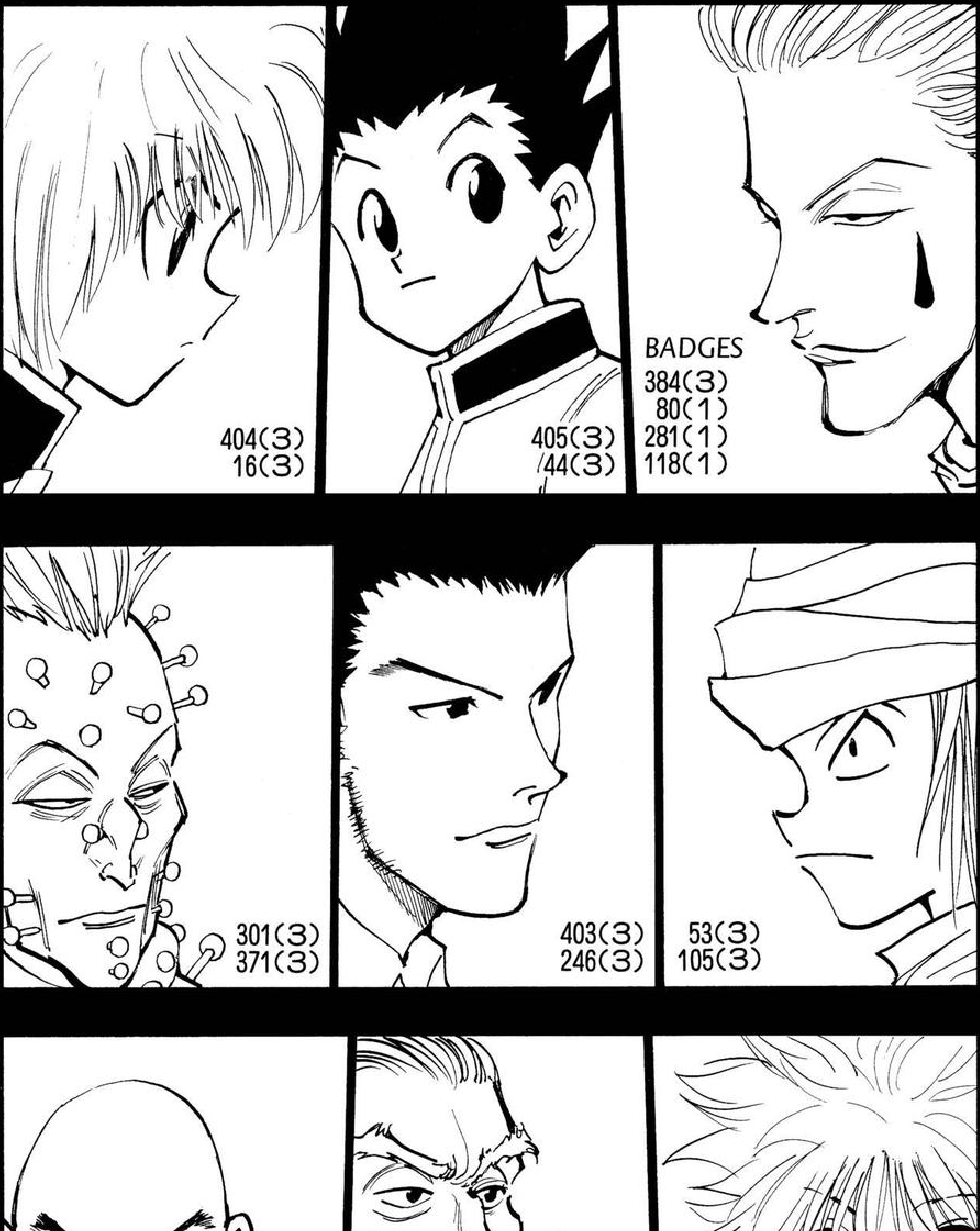

BAA-WOOO!!!
ATTENTION! THE FOURTH PHASE OF THE HUNTER EXAM IS NOW OVER!
ALL APPLICANTS MUST NOW MAKE THEIR WAY TO THE LANDING SITE! NO DAWDLING, PLEASE!

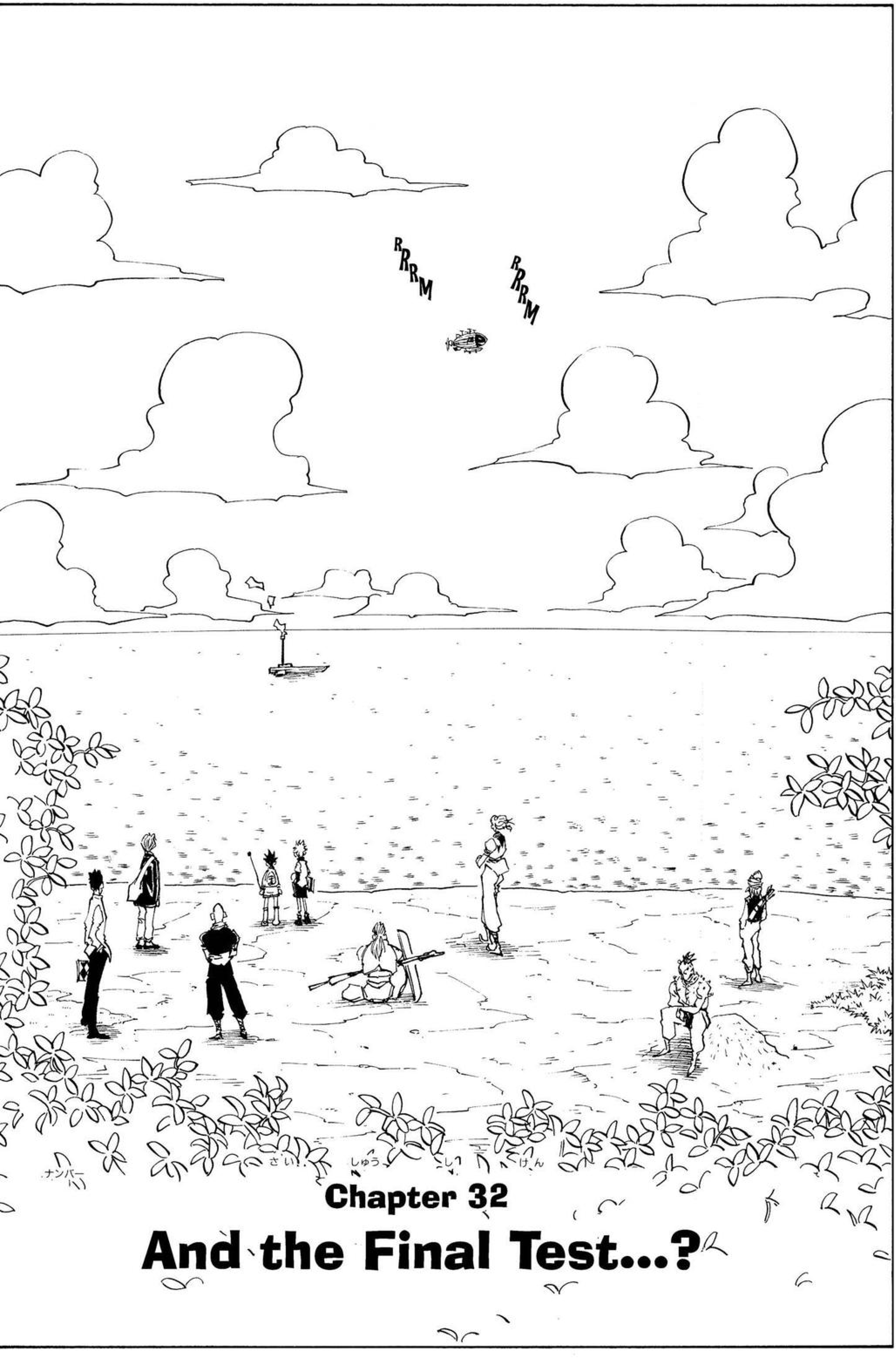
Chapter 32

And the Final Test...?


YOU HAVE ONE HOUR TO SHOW UP! ONE HOUR ONLY!
ANYONE NOT AT THE LANDING SITE BY THEN WILL BE FAILED!
SHUSS
RUSTLE
ONCE AT THE LANDING SITE, YOU ARE NEITHER HUNTER NOR TARGET!
TRUDGE
TRUDGE
ANY ATTEMPT TO TRANSFER BADGES AT THIS POINT WILL RESULT IN IMMEDIATE DISQUALIFICATION!

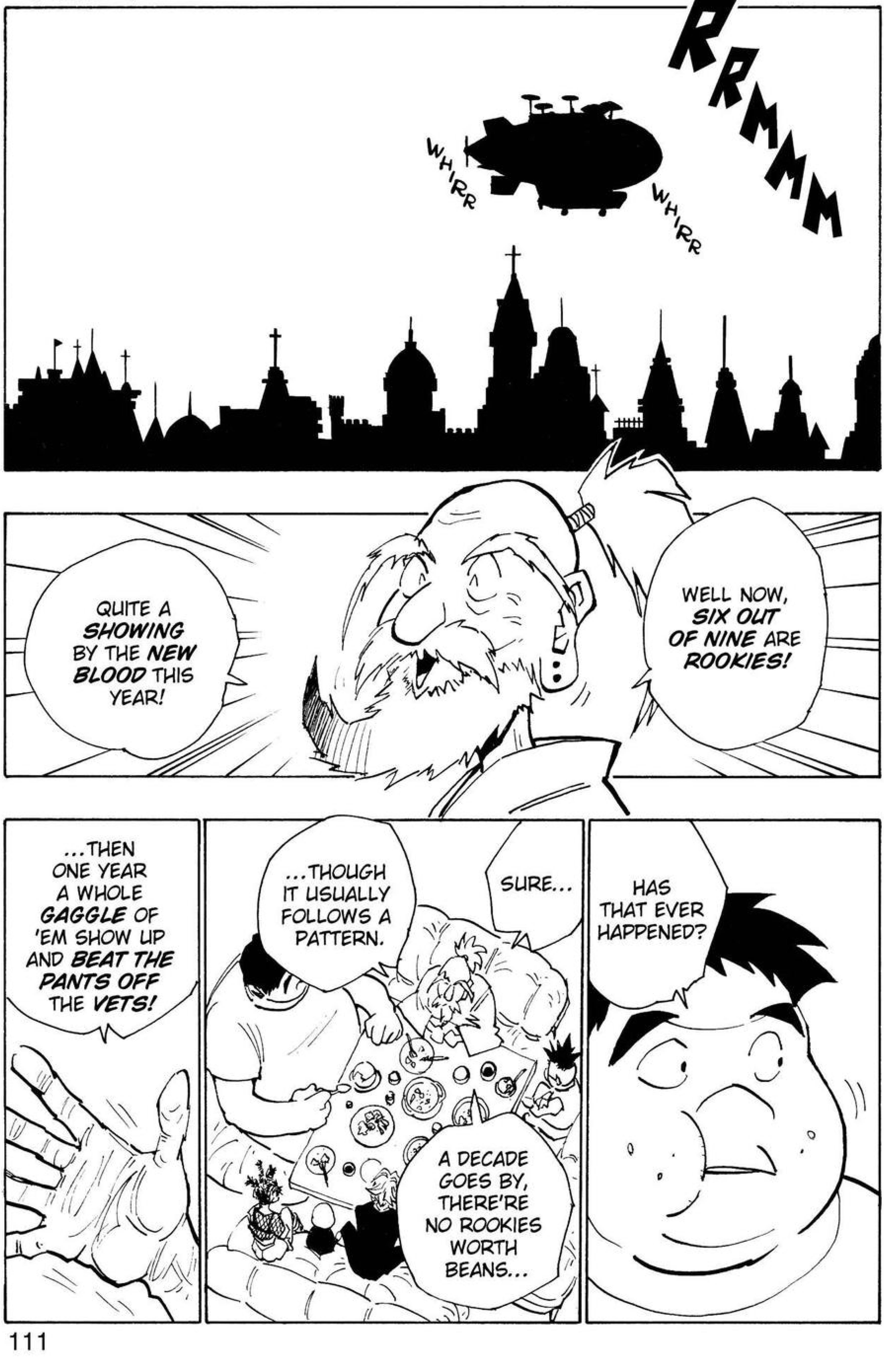
READ THIS WAY

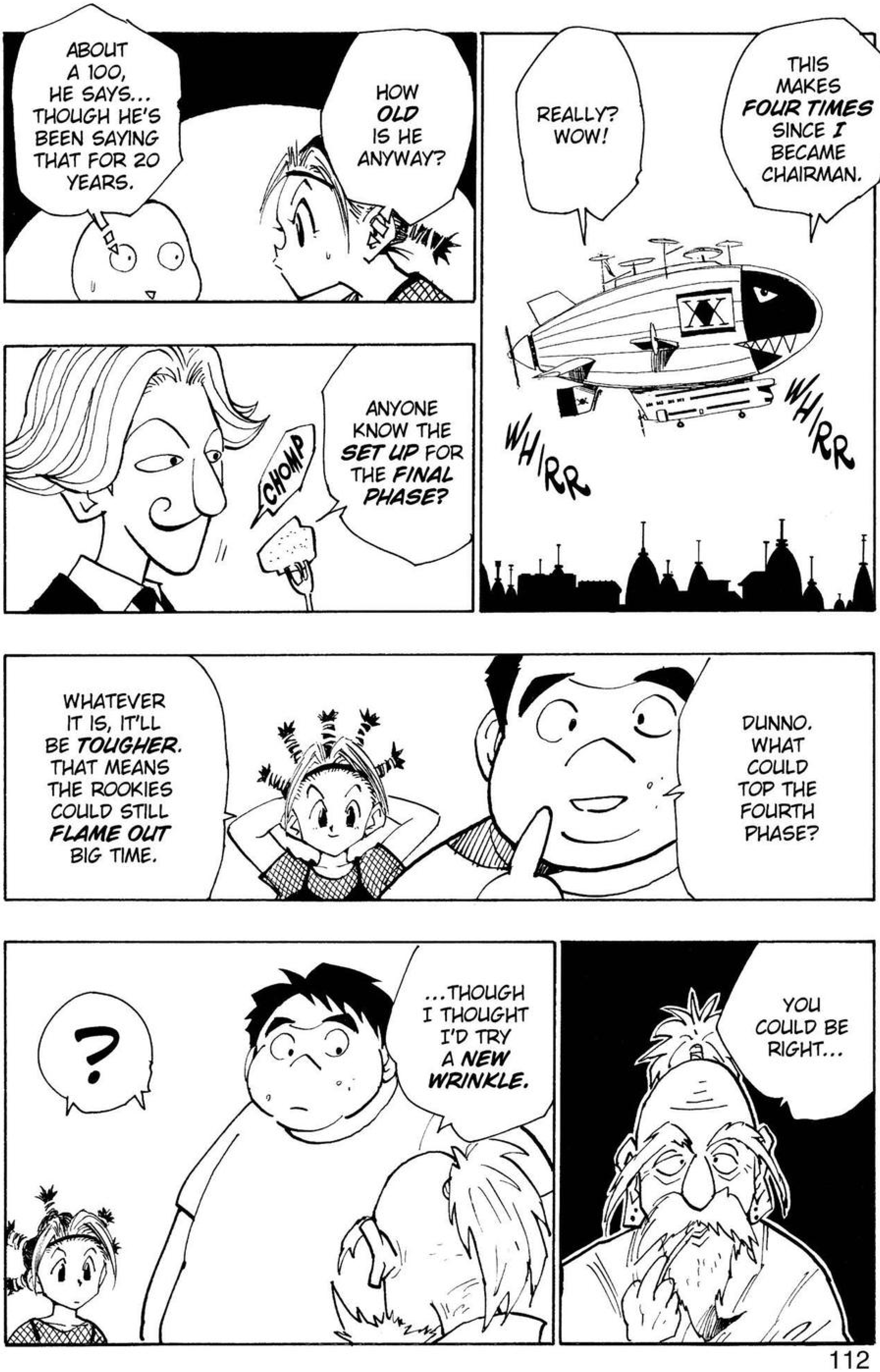

BADGES
384(3)
80(1)
281(1)
118(1)
405(3)
44(3)
404(3)
16(3)
53(3)
105(3)
403(3)
246(3)
301(3)
371(3)
99(3)
199(3)
191(3)
34(3)
294(3)
198(1)
362(1)
89(1)


RRRM
RRRM
ナンバー
さい しゅう し けん

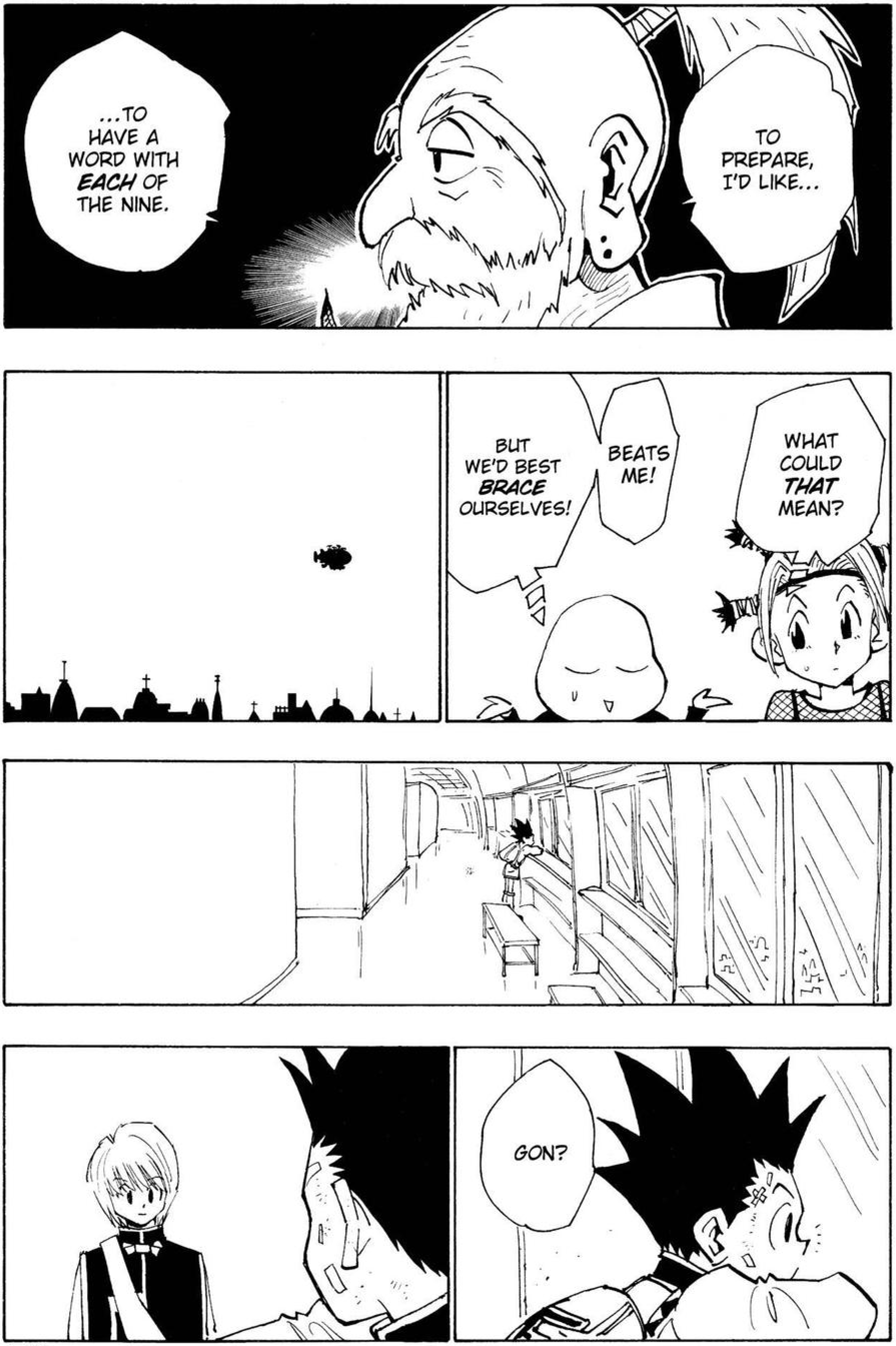
Chapter 32

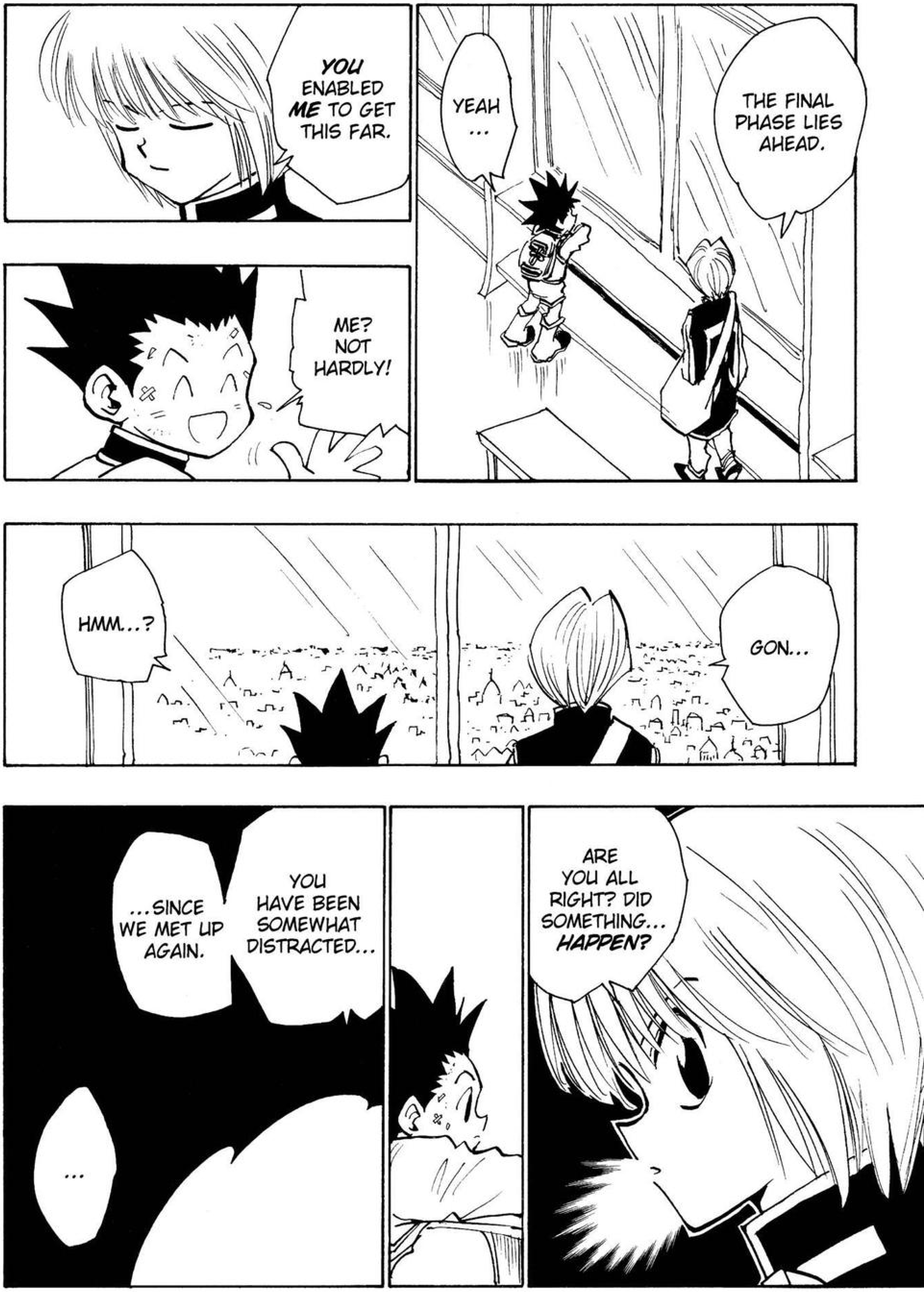
And the Final Test...?


RRMMMM
WHIRR
WHIRR
WELL NOW, ***SIX OUT OF NINE*** ARE ***ROOKIES!***
QUITE A ***SHOWING*** BY THE ***NEW BLOOD*** THIS YEAR!
HAS THAT EVER HAPPENED?
SURE...
...THOUGH IT USUALLY FOLLOWS A PATTERN.
A DECADE GOES BY, THERE'RE NO ROOKIES WORTH BEANS...
...THEN ONE YEAR A WHOLE ***GAGGLE*** OF 'EM SHOW UP AND ***BEAT THE PANTS OFF*** THE ***VETS!***

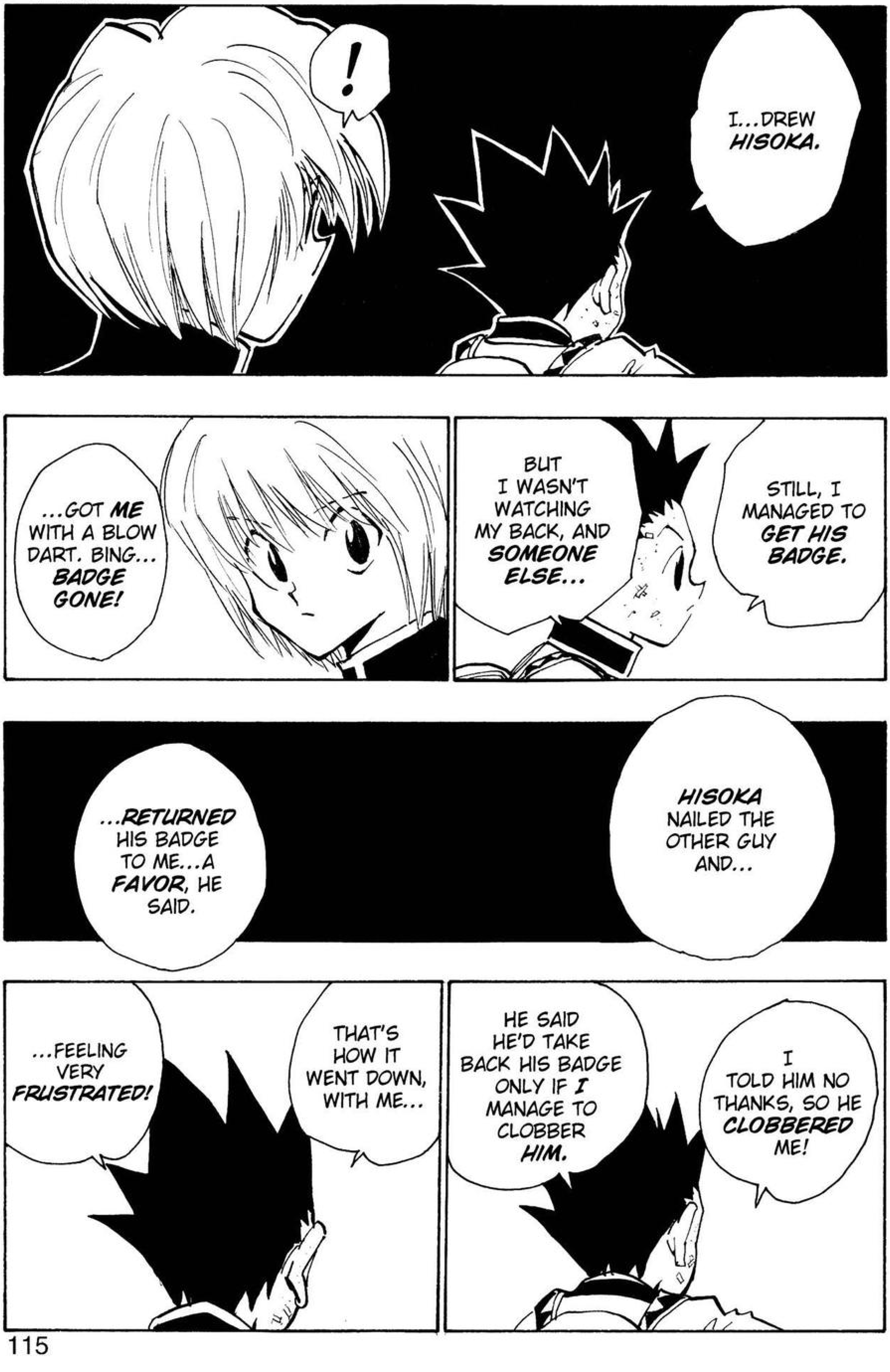

THIS MAKES **FOUR TIMES** SINCE ***I*** BECAME CHAIRMAN.
REALLY? WOW!
WHIRR
WHIRR
HOW ***OLD*** IS HE ANYWAY?
ABOUT A 100, HE SAYS... THOUGH HE'S BEEN SAYING THAT FOR 20 YEARS.
ANYONE KNOW THE ***SET UP*** FOR THE ***FINAL PHASE?***
CHOMP
DUNNO. WHAT COULD TOP THE FOURTH PHASE?
WHATEVER IT IS, IT'LL BE ***TOUGHER.*** THAT MEANS THE ROOKIES COULD STILL ***FLAME OUT*** BIG TIME.
YOU COULD BE RIGHT...
...THOUGH I THOUGHT I'D TRY A ***NEW WRINKLE.***
?

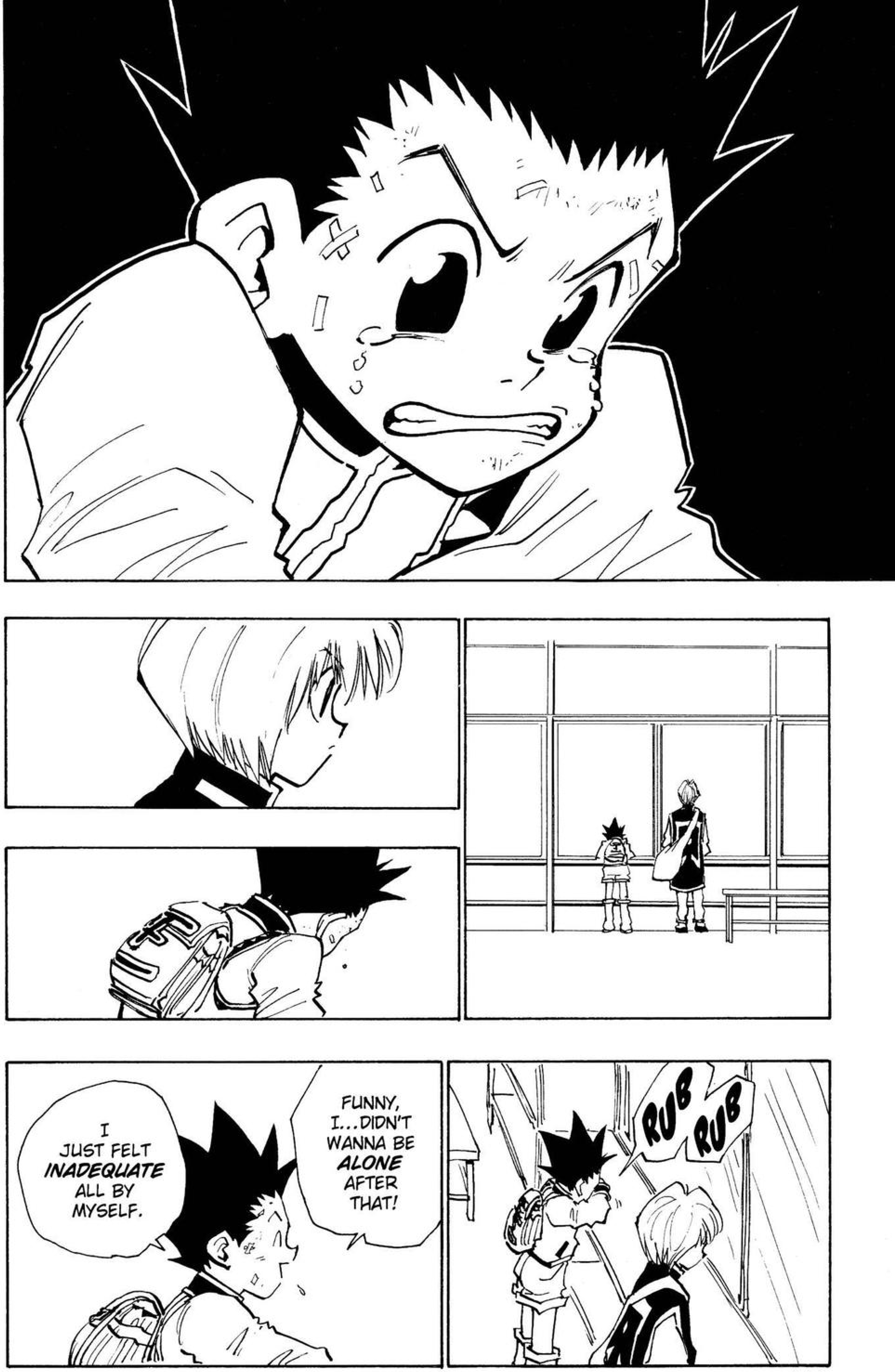
READ THIS WAY


TO PREPARE, I'D LIKE...
...TO HAVE A WORD WITH *EACH* OF THE NINE.
WHAT COULD *THAT* MEAN?
BEATS ME!
BUT WE'D BEST *BRACE* OURSELVES!
GON?

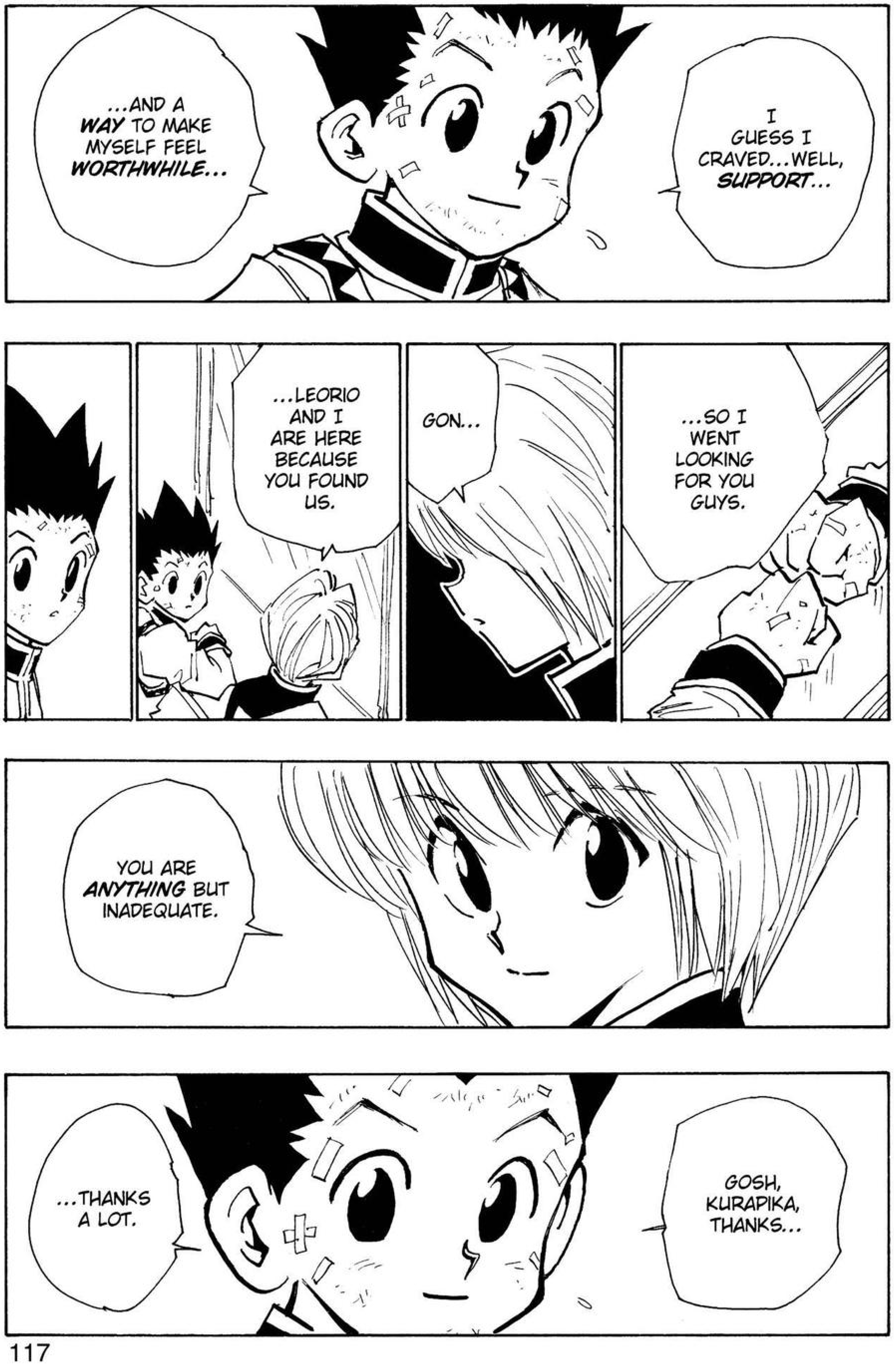

THE FINAL PHASE LIES AHEAD.
YEAH …
YOU ENABLED ***ME*** TO GET THIS FAR.
ME? NOT HARDLY!
GON…
HMM…?
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? DID SOMETHING… ***HAPPEN?***
YOU HAVE BEEN SOMEWHAT DISTRACTED…
…SINCE WE MET UP AGAIN.
…

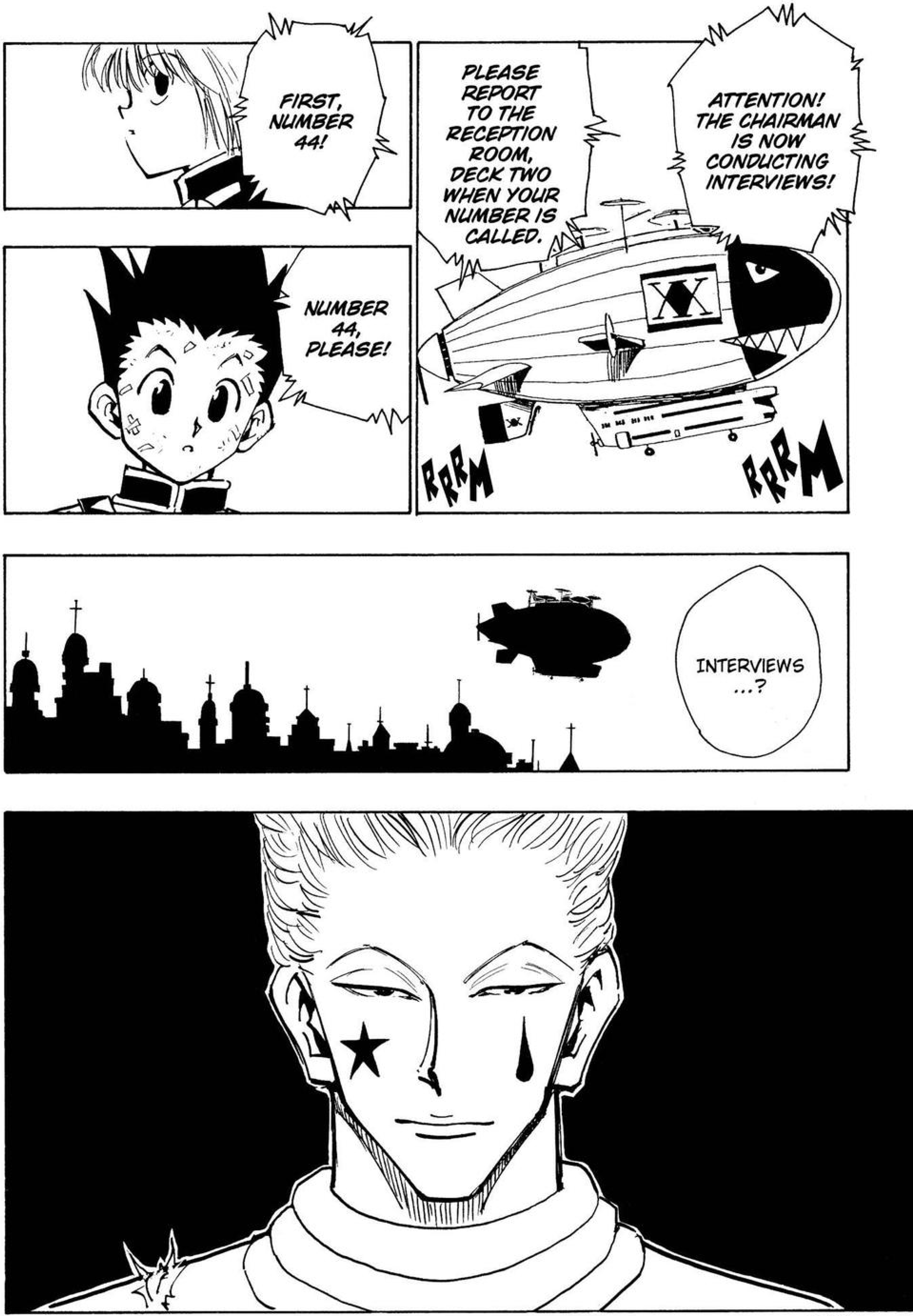
READ THIS WAY


I...DREW **HISOKA.**
!
STILL, I MANAGED TO **GET HIS BADGE.**
BUT I WASN'T WATCHING MY BACK, AND **SOMEONE ELSE...**
...GOT **ME** WITH A BLOW DART. BING... **BADGE GONE!**
HISOKA NAILED THE OTHER GUY AND...
...**RETURNED** HIS BADGE TO ME...A **FAVOR**, HE SAID.
I TOLD HIM NO THANKS, SO HE **CLOBBERED** ME!
HE SAID HE'D TAKE BACK HIS BADGE ONLY IF ***I*** MANAGE TO CLOBBER **HIM.**
THAT'S HOW IT WENT DOWN, WITH ME...
...FEELING VERY **FRUSTRATED!**

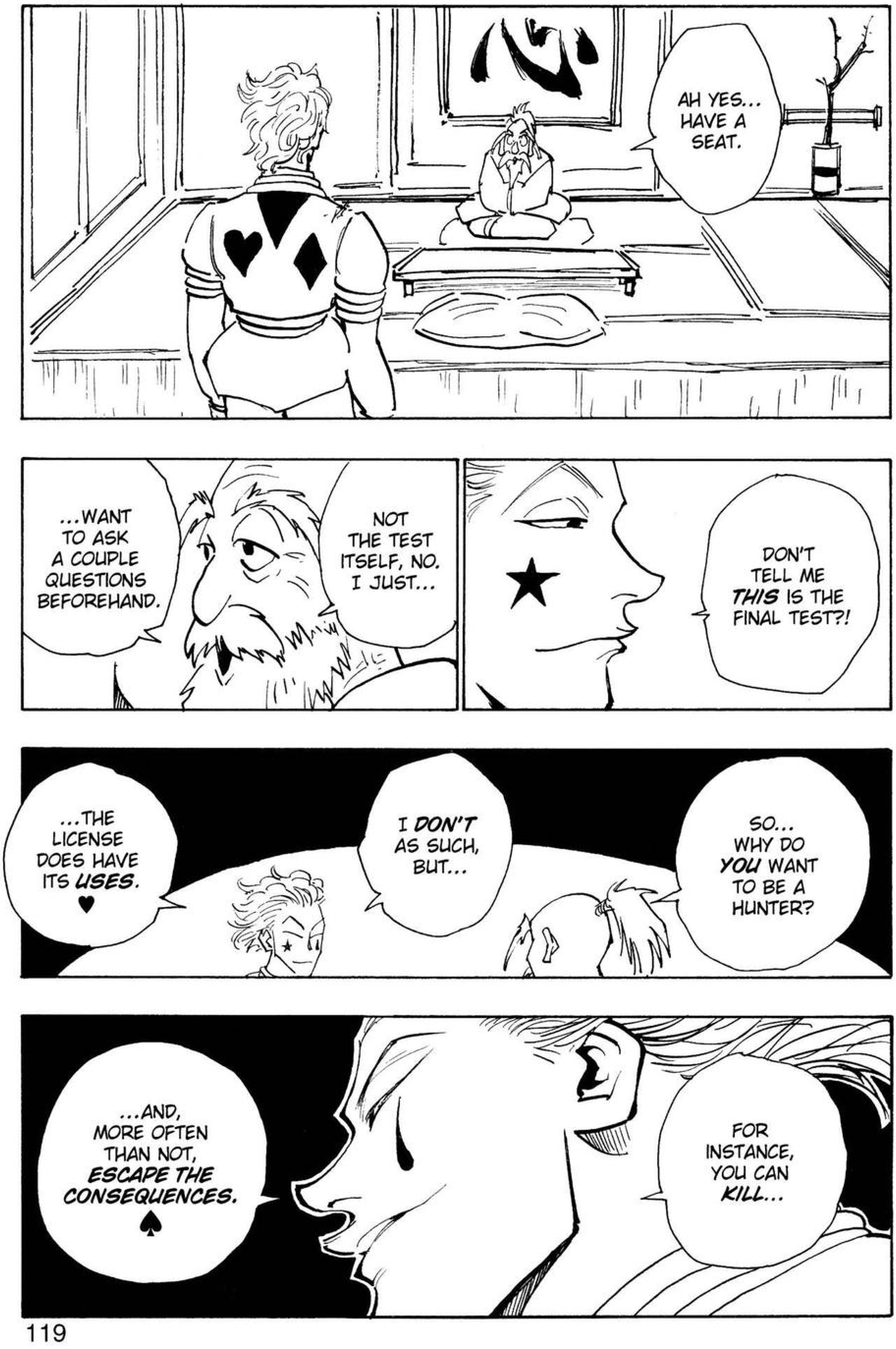

RUB RUB
FUNNY, I...DIDN'T WANNA BE *ALONE* AFTER THAT!
I JUST FELT *INADEQUATE* ALL BY MYSELF.

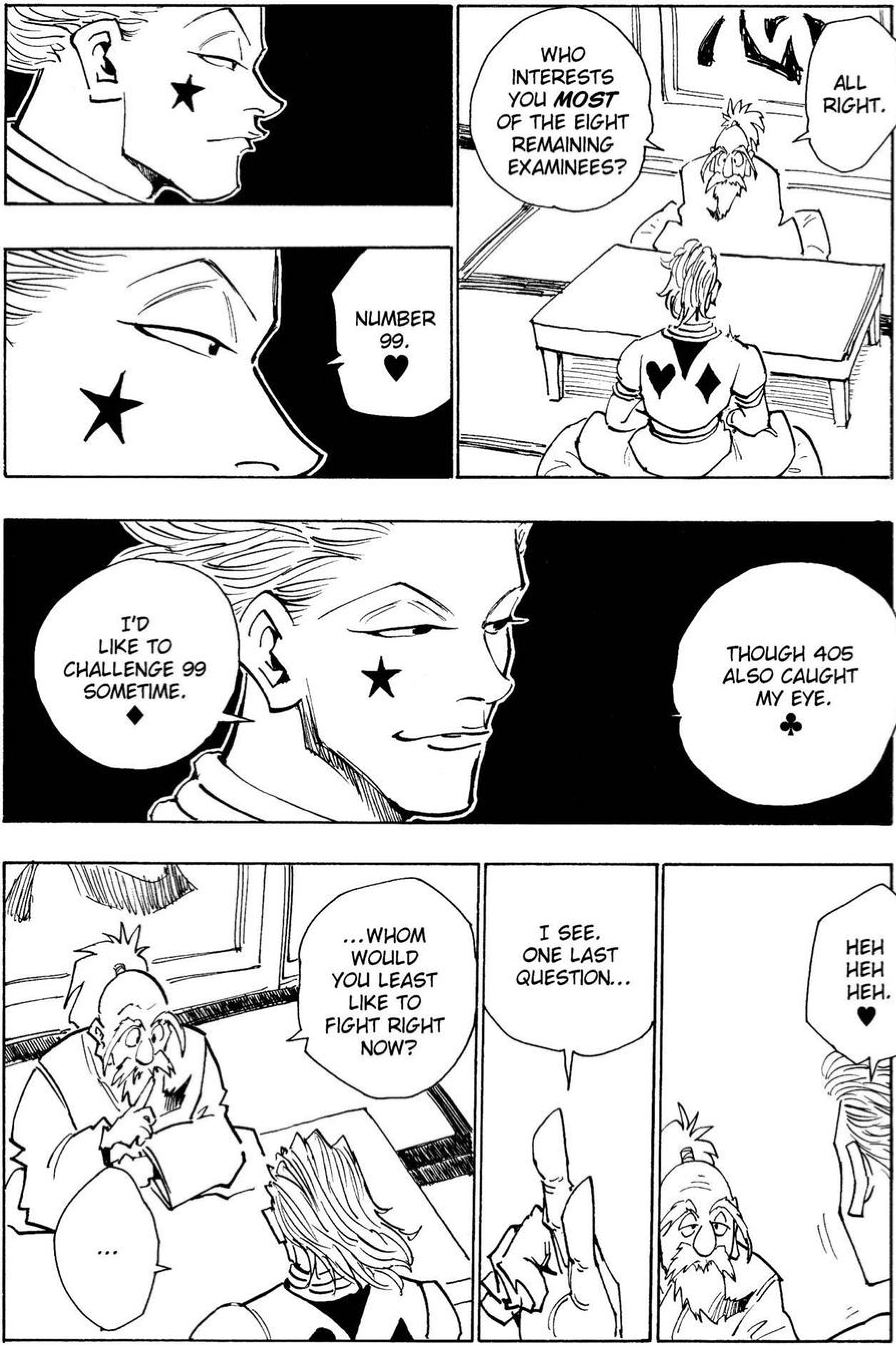
READ THIS WAY

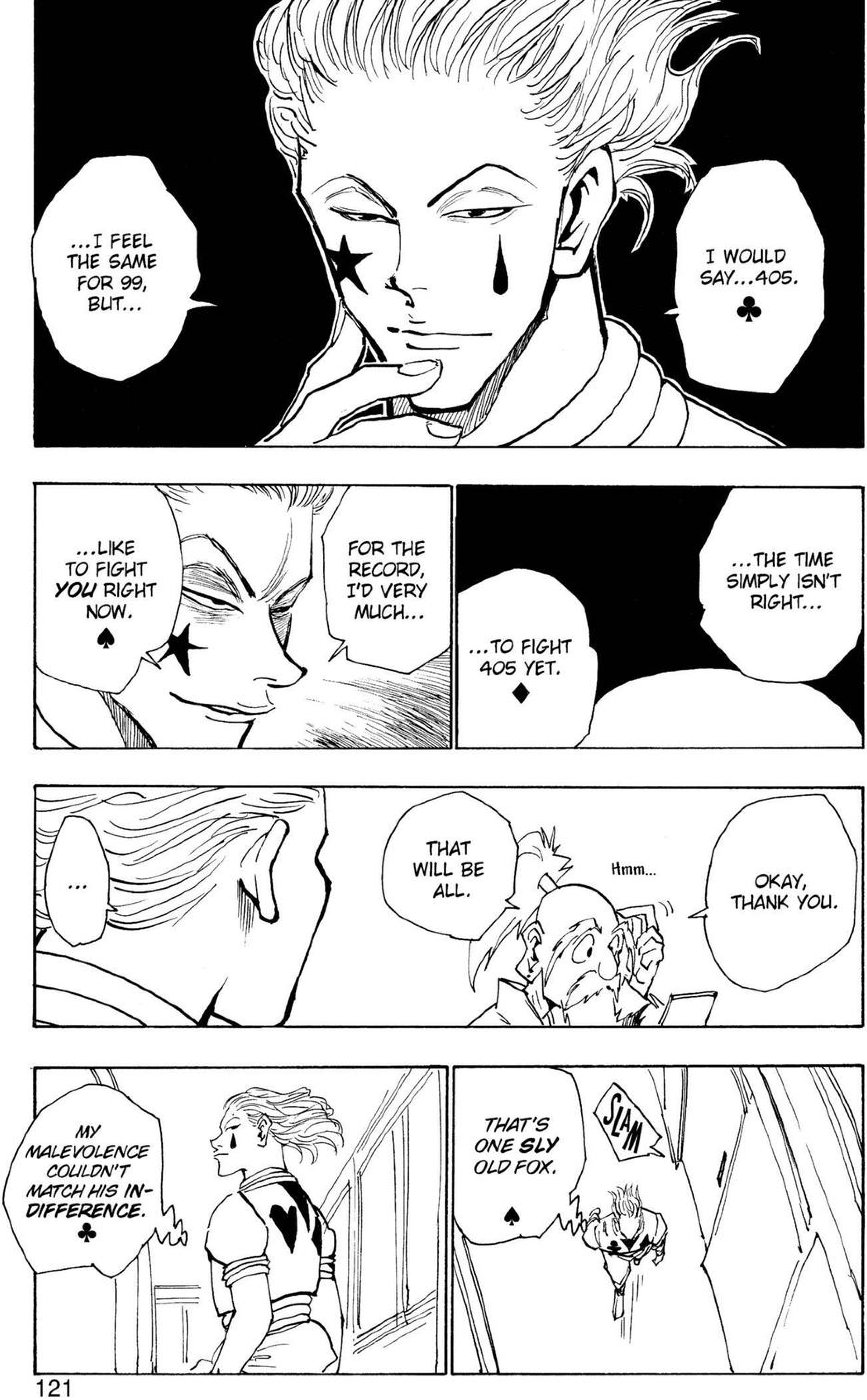

I GUESS I CRAVED...WELL, SUPPORT...
...AND A WAY TO MAKE MYSELF FEEL WORTHWHILE...
...SO I WENT LOOKING FOR YOU GUYS.
GON...
...LEORIO AND I ARE HERE BECAUSE YOU FOUND US.
YOU ARE ANYTHING BUT INADEQUATE.
GOSH, KURAPIKA, THANKS...
...THANKS A LOT.

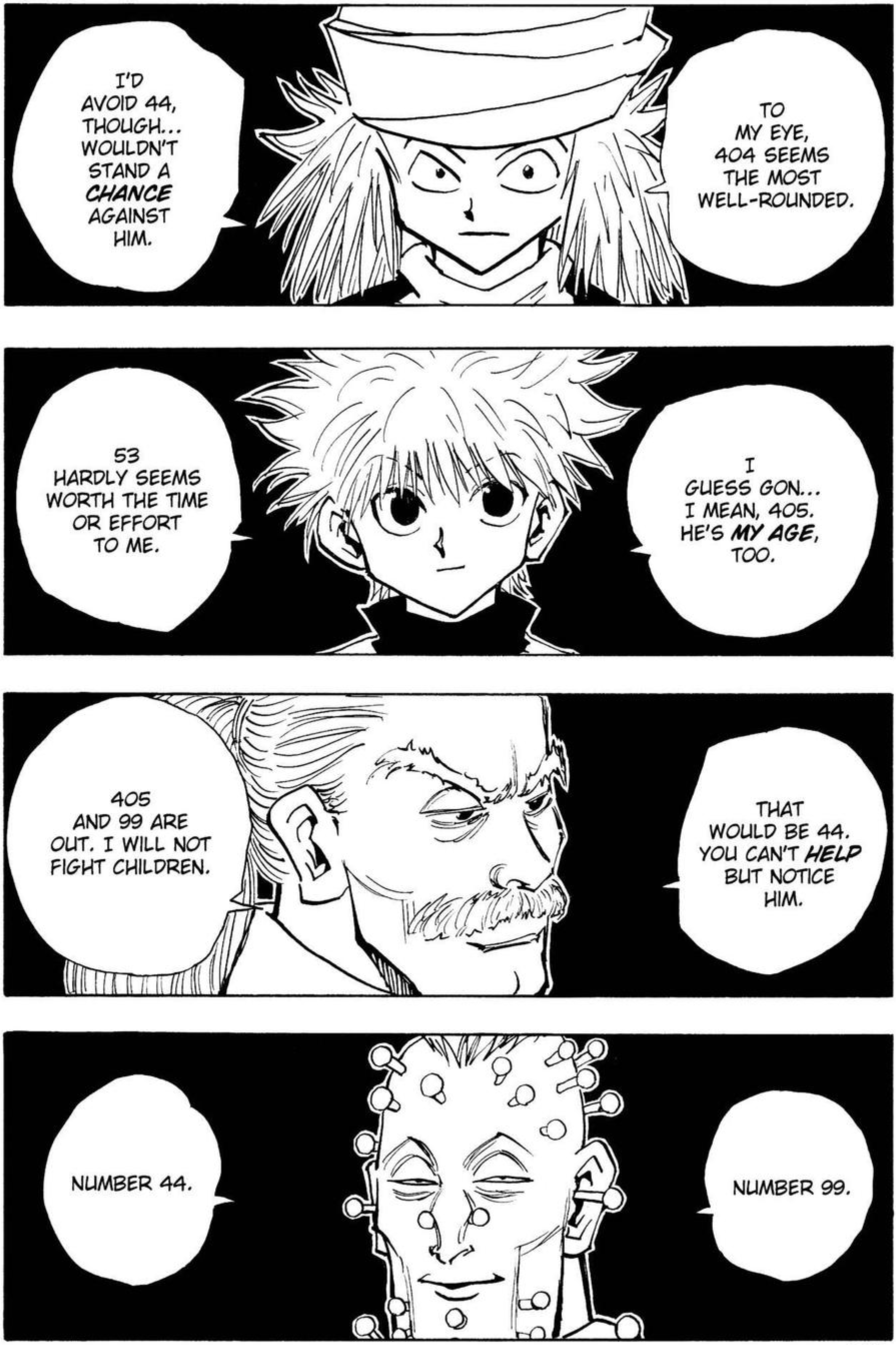

ATTENTION! THE CHAIRMAN IS NOW CONDUCTING INTERVIEWS!
PLEASE REPORT TO THE RECEPTION ROOM, DECK TWO WHEN YOUR NUMBER IS CALLED.
RRRM
RRRM
FIRST, NUMBER 44!
NUMBER 44, PLEASE!
INTERVIEWS ...?

READ THIS WAY

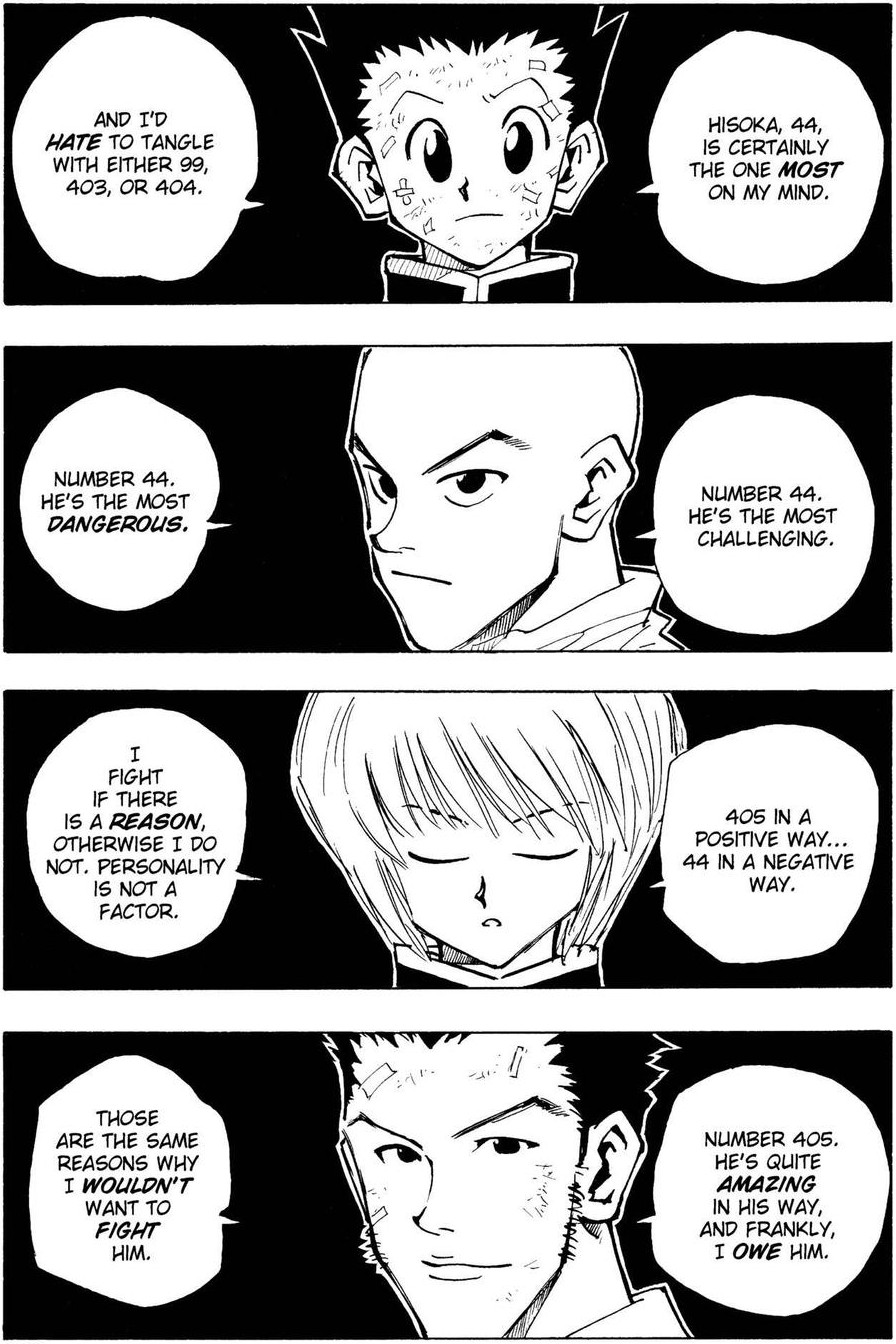

心
AH YES... HAVE A SEAT.
DON'T TELL ME *THIS* IS THE FINAL TEST?!
NOT THE TEST ITSELF, NO. I JUST...
...WANT TO ASK A COUPLE QUESTIONS BEFOREHAND.
SO... WHY DO *YOU* WANT TO BE A HUNTER?
I *DON'T* AS SUCH, BUT...
...THE LICENSE DOES HAVE ITS *USES*. ♥
FOR INSTANCE, YOU CAN *KILL*...
...AND, MORE OFTEN THAN NOT, *ESCAPE THE CONSEQUENCES.* ♠

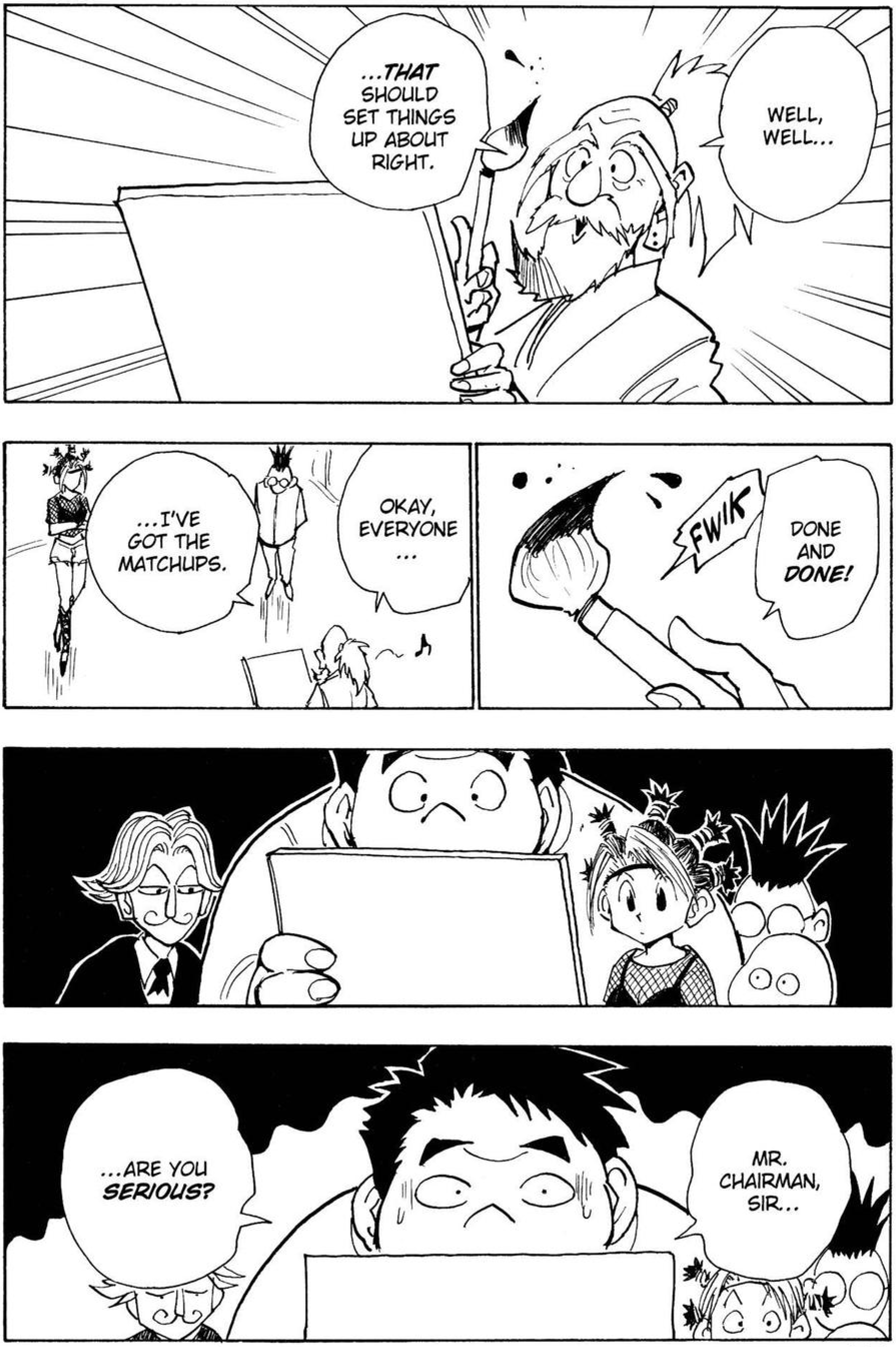

ALL RIGHT.
WHO INTERESTS YOU **MOST** OF THE EIGHT REMAINING EXAMINEES?
NUMBER 99. ♥
THOUGH 405 ALSO CAUGHT MY EYE. ♣
I'D LIKE TO CHALLENGE 99 SOMETIME. ♦
HEH HEH HEH. ♥
I SEE. ONE LAST QUESTION...
...WHOM WOULD YOU LEAST LIKE TO FIGHT RIGHT NOW?
...


I WOULD SAY…405. ♣
…I FEEL THE SAME FOR 99, BUT…
…THE TIME SIMPLY ISN'T RIGHT…
…TO FIGHT 405 YET. ◆
FOR THE RECORD, I'D VERY MUCH…
…LIKE TO FIGHT ***YOU*** RIGHT NOW. ♠
OKAY, THANK YOU.
Hmm…
THAT WILL BE ALL.
…
SLAM
*THAT'S ONE **SLY** OLD FOX.* ♠
*MY MALEVOLENCE COULDN'T MATCH HIS **INDIFFERENCE**.* ♣

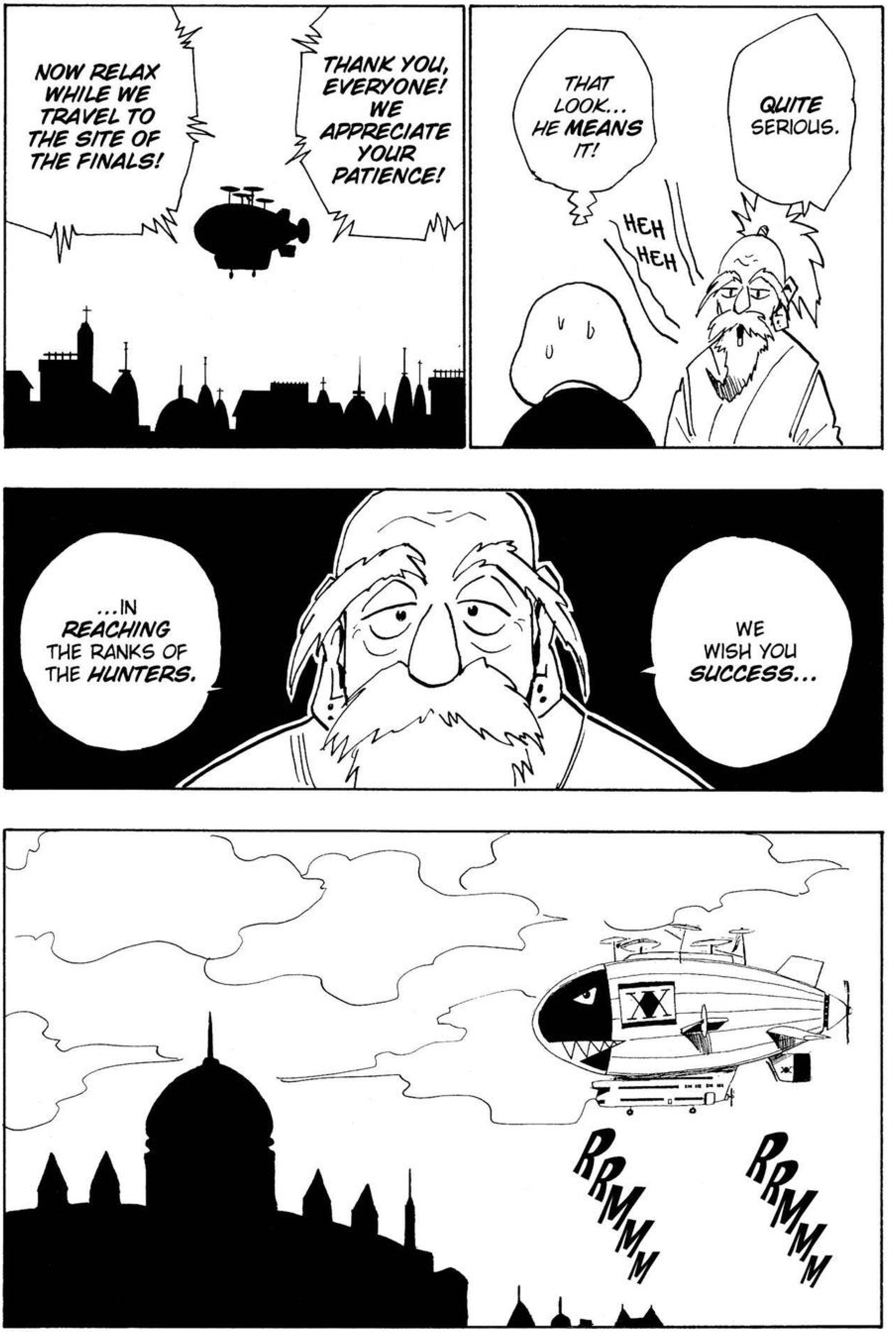

TO MY EYE, 404 SEEMS THE MOST WELL-ROUNDED.
I'D AVOID 44, THOUGH... WOULDN'T STAND A *CHANCE* AGAINST HIM.
I GUESS GON... I MEAN, 405. HE'S *MY AGE*, TOO.
53 HARDLY SEEMS WORTH THE TIME OR EFFORT TO ME.
THAT WOULD BE 44. YOU CAN'T *HELP* BUT NOTICE HIM.
405 AND 99 ARE OUT. I WILL NOT FIGHT CHILDREN.
NUMBER 99.
NUMBER 44.

READ THIS WAY


HISOKA, 44, IS CERTAINLY THE ONE **MOST** ON MY MIND.
AND I'D ***HATE*** TO TANGLE WITH EITHER 99, 403, OR 404.
NUMBER 44. HE'S THE MOST CHALLENGING.
NUMBER 44. HE'S THE MOST ***DANGEROUS.***
405 IN A POSITIVE WAY... 44 IN A NEGATIVE WAY.
I FIGHT IF THERE IS A ***REASON***, OTHERWISE I DO NOT. PERSONALITY IS NOT A FACTOR.
NUMBER 405. HE'S QUITE ***AMAZING*** IN HIS WAY, AND FRANKLY, I ***OWE*** HIM.
THOSE ARE THE SAME REASONS WHY I ***WOULDN'T*** WANT TO ***FIGHT*** HIM.

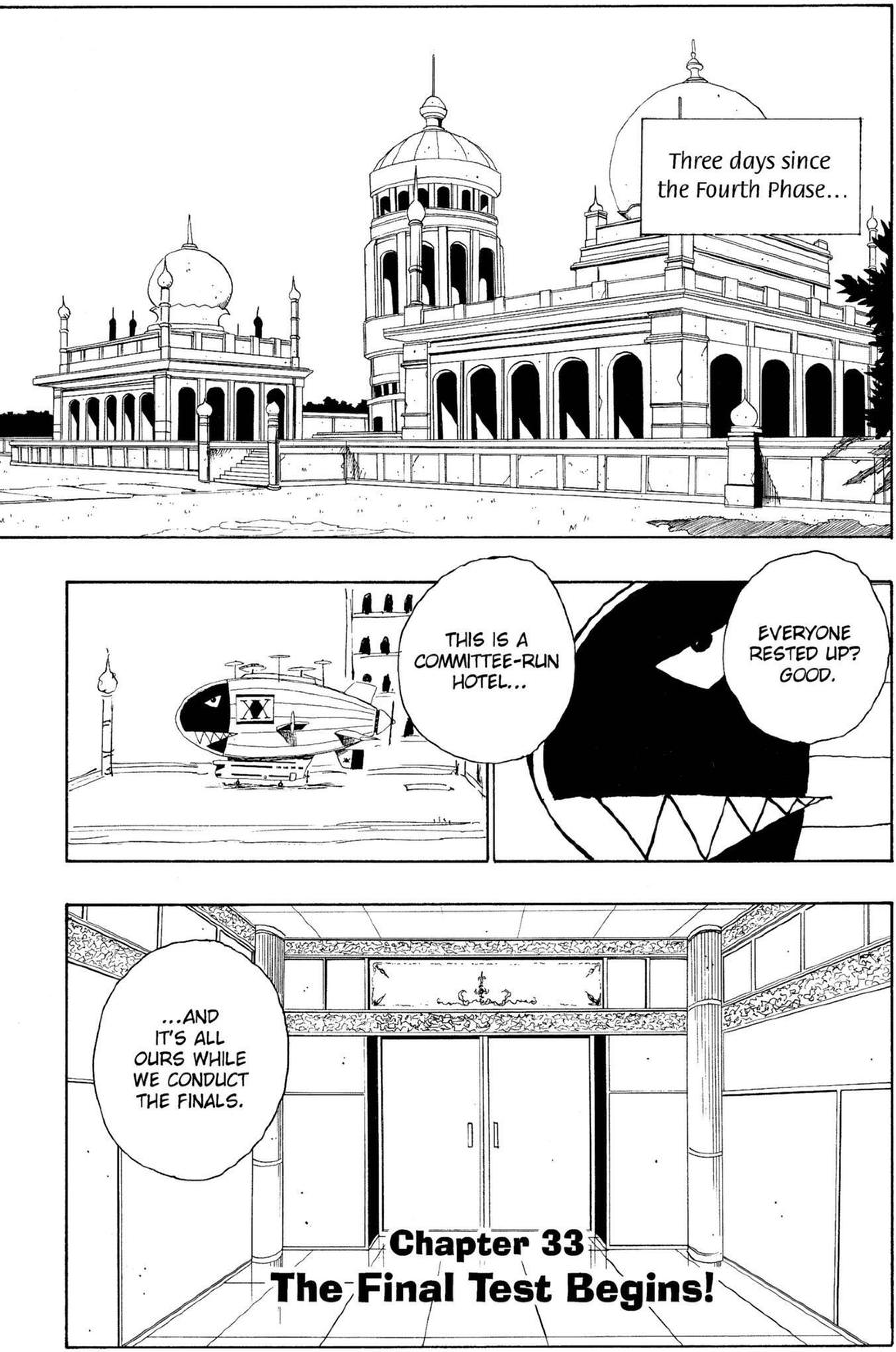

WELL, WELL...
...THAT SHOULD SET THINGS UP ABOUT RIGHT.
DONE AND DONE!
FWIK
OKAY, EVERYONE ...
...I'VE GOT THE MATCHUPS.
MR. CHAIRMAN, SIR...
...ARE YOU SERIOUS?

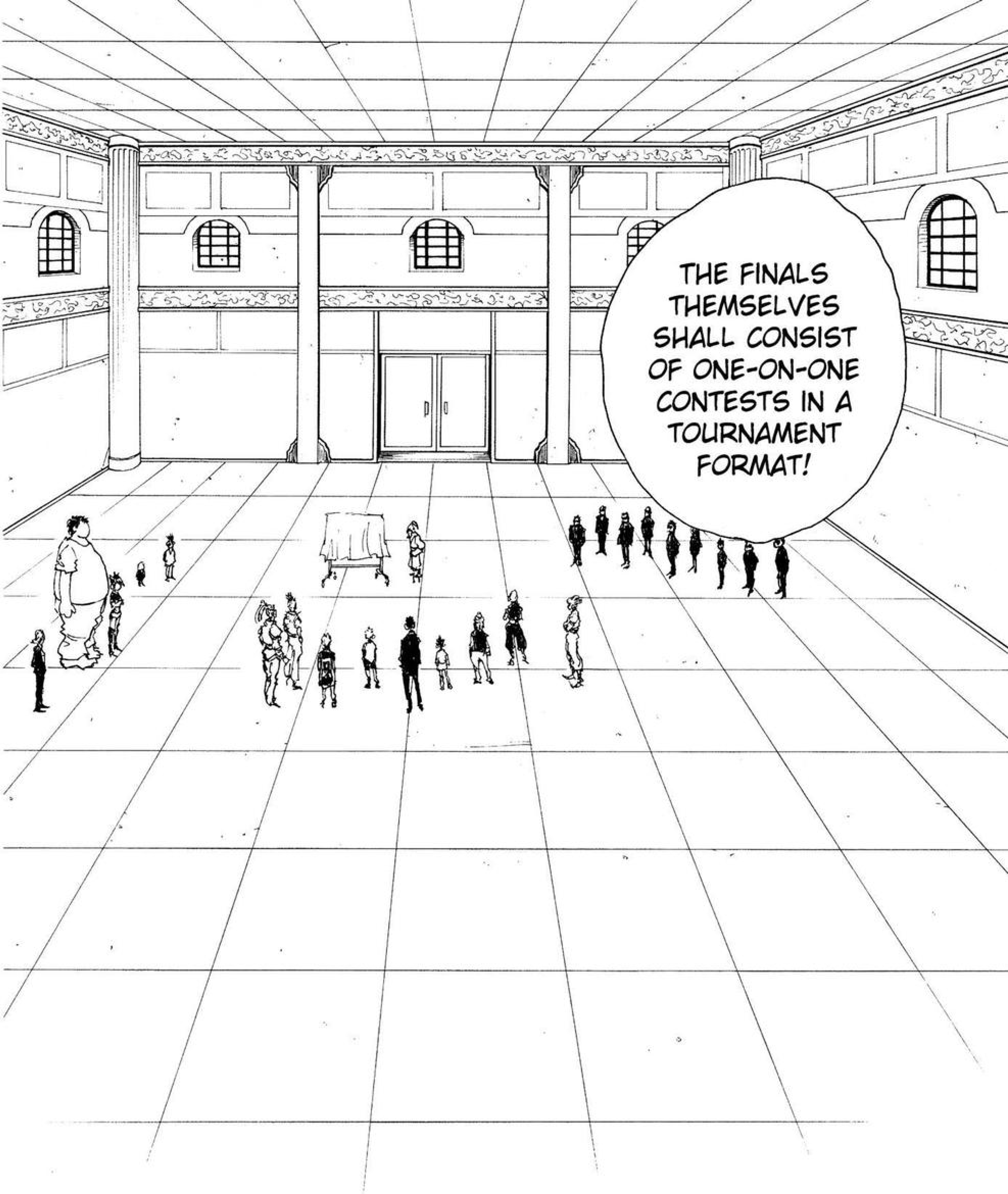
READ THIS WAY


QUITE SERIOUS.
THAT LOOK... HE MEANS IT!
HEH HEH
THANK YOU, EVERYONE! WE APPRECIATE YOUR PATIENCE!
NOW RELAX WHILE WE TRAVEL TO THE SITE OF THE FINALS!
WE WISH YOU SUCCESS...
...IN REACHING THE RANKS OF THE HUNTERS.
RRMMM
RRMMM

Chapter 33

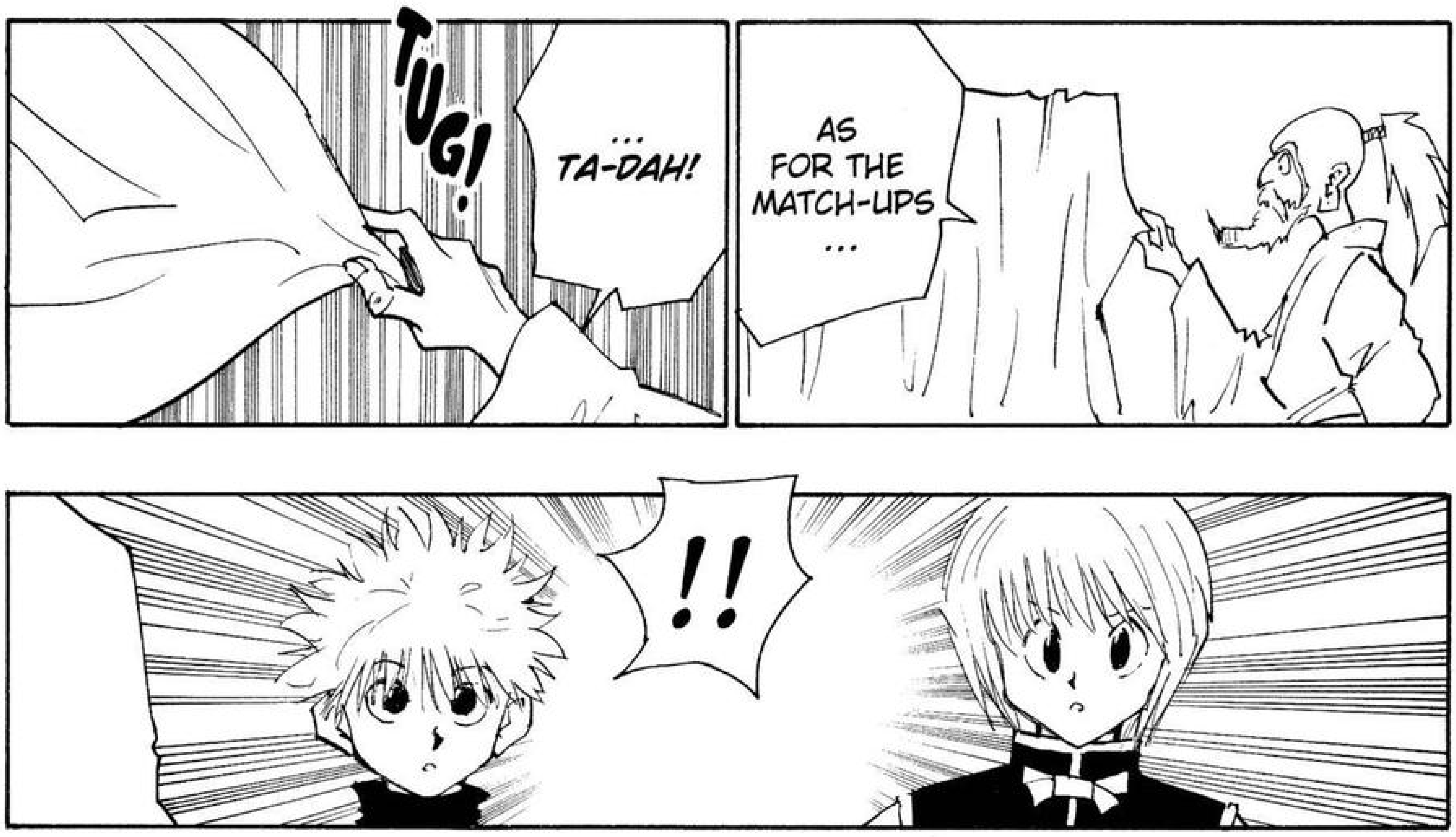
The Final Test Begins!

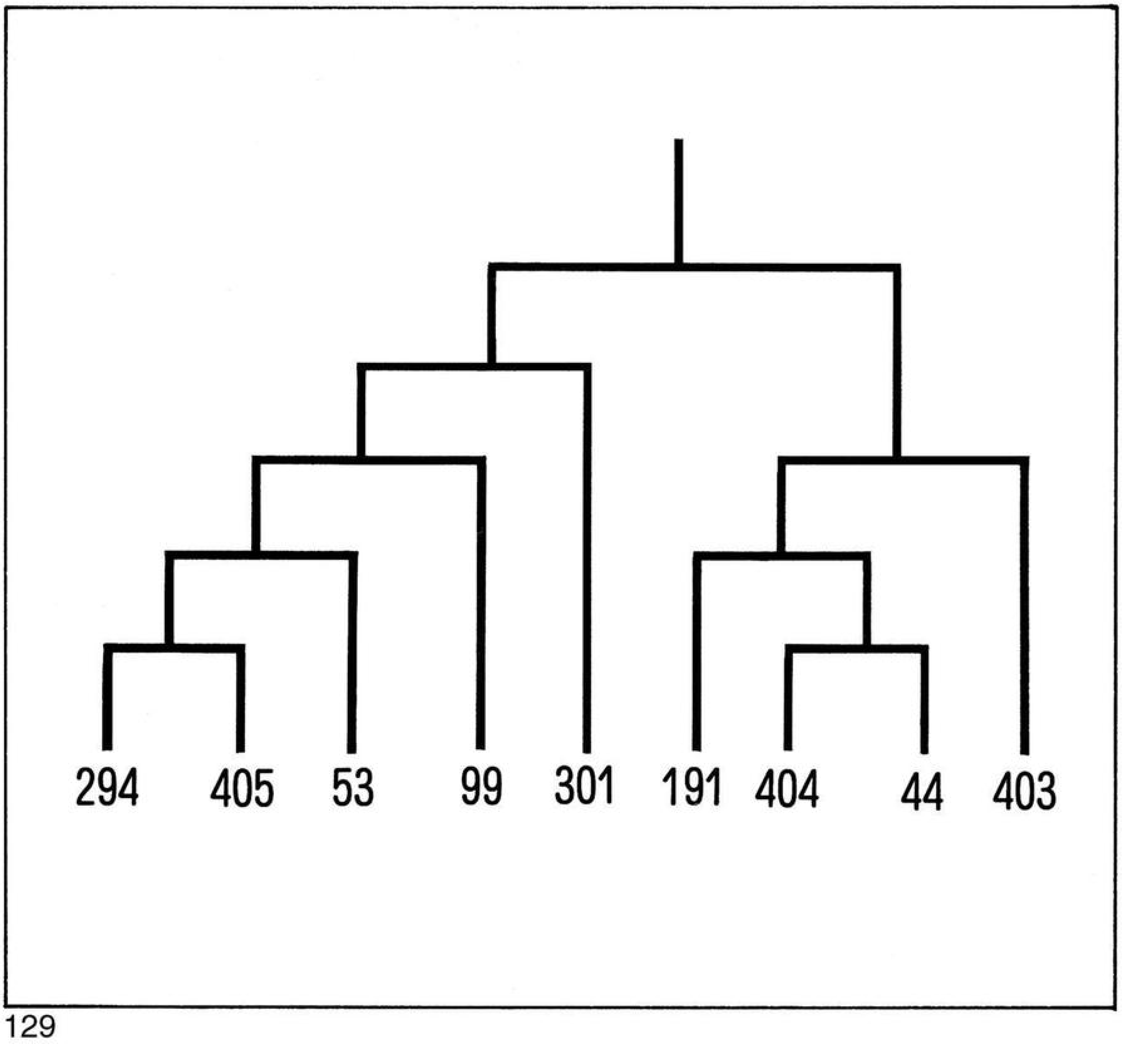

Three days since the Fourth Phase…
EVERYONE RESTED UP? GOOD.
THIS IS A COMMITTEE-RUN HOTEL…
…AND IT'S ALL OURS WHILE WE CONDUCT THE FINALS.

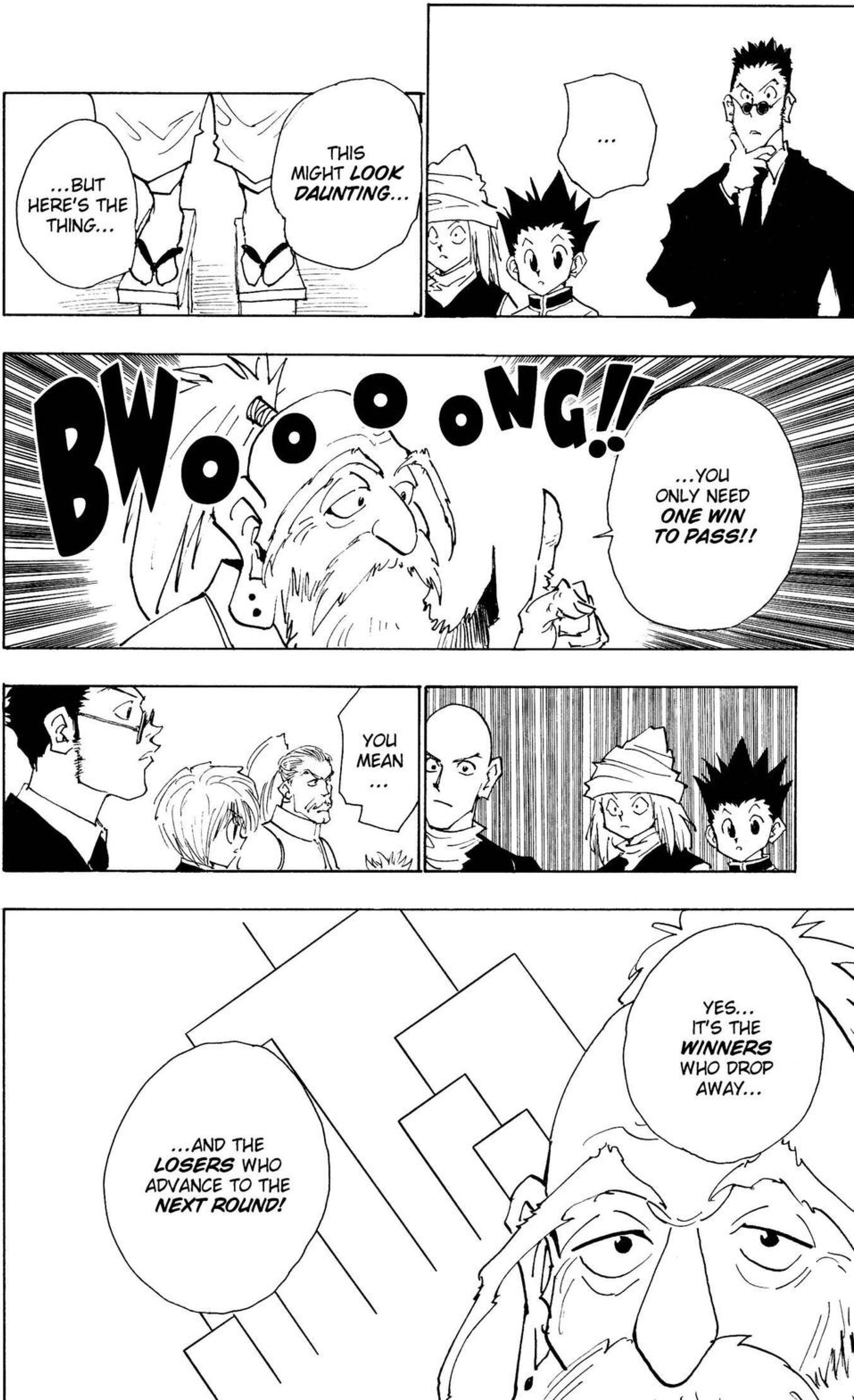

THE FINALS THEMSELVES SHALL CONSIST OF ONE-ON-ONE CONTESTS IN A TOURNAMENT FORMAT!

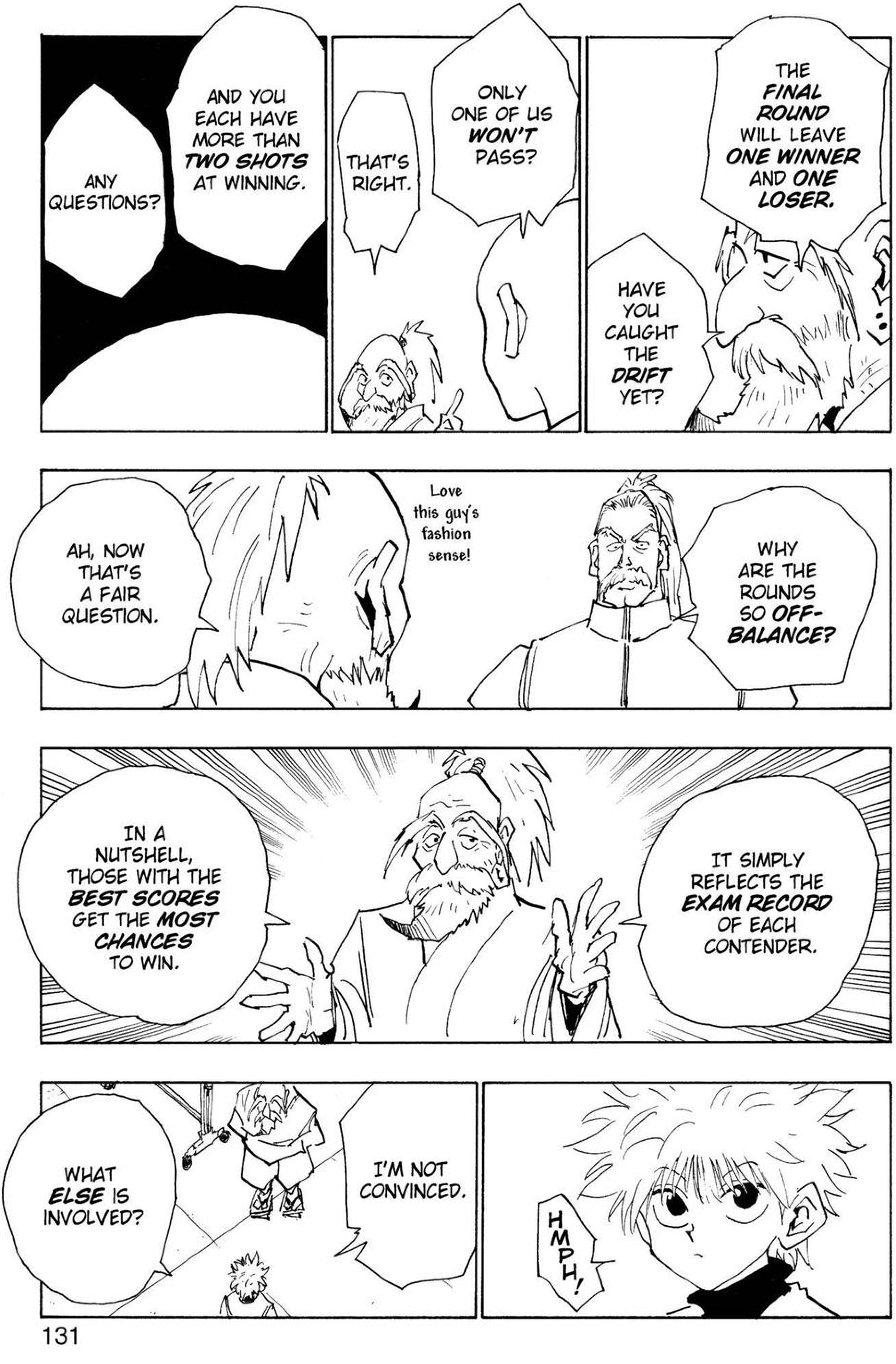
Chapter 33

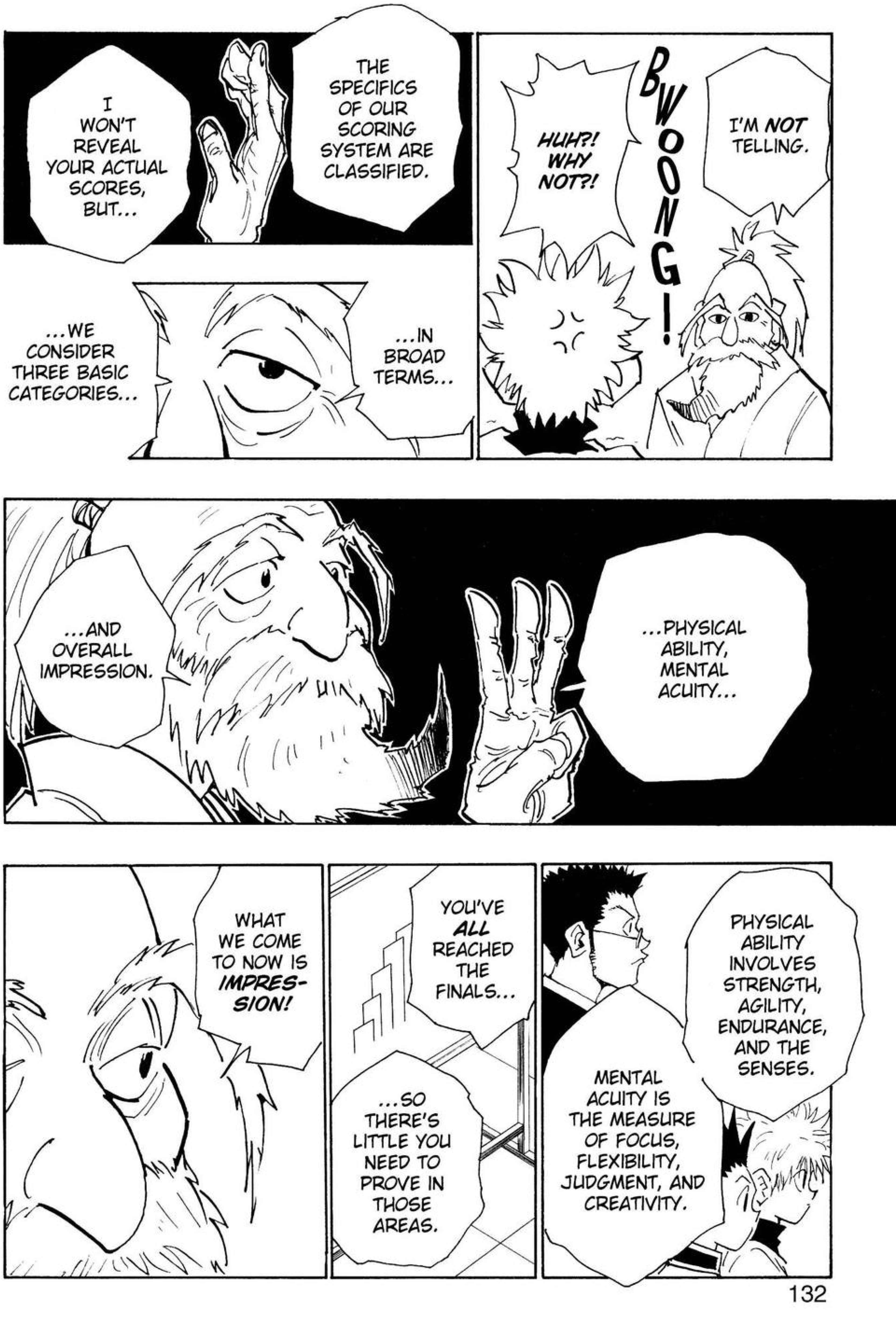
The Final Test Begins!

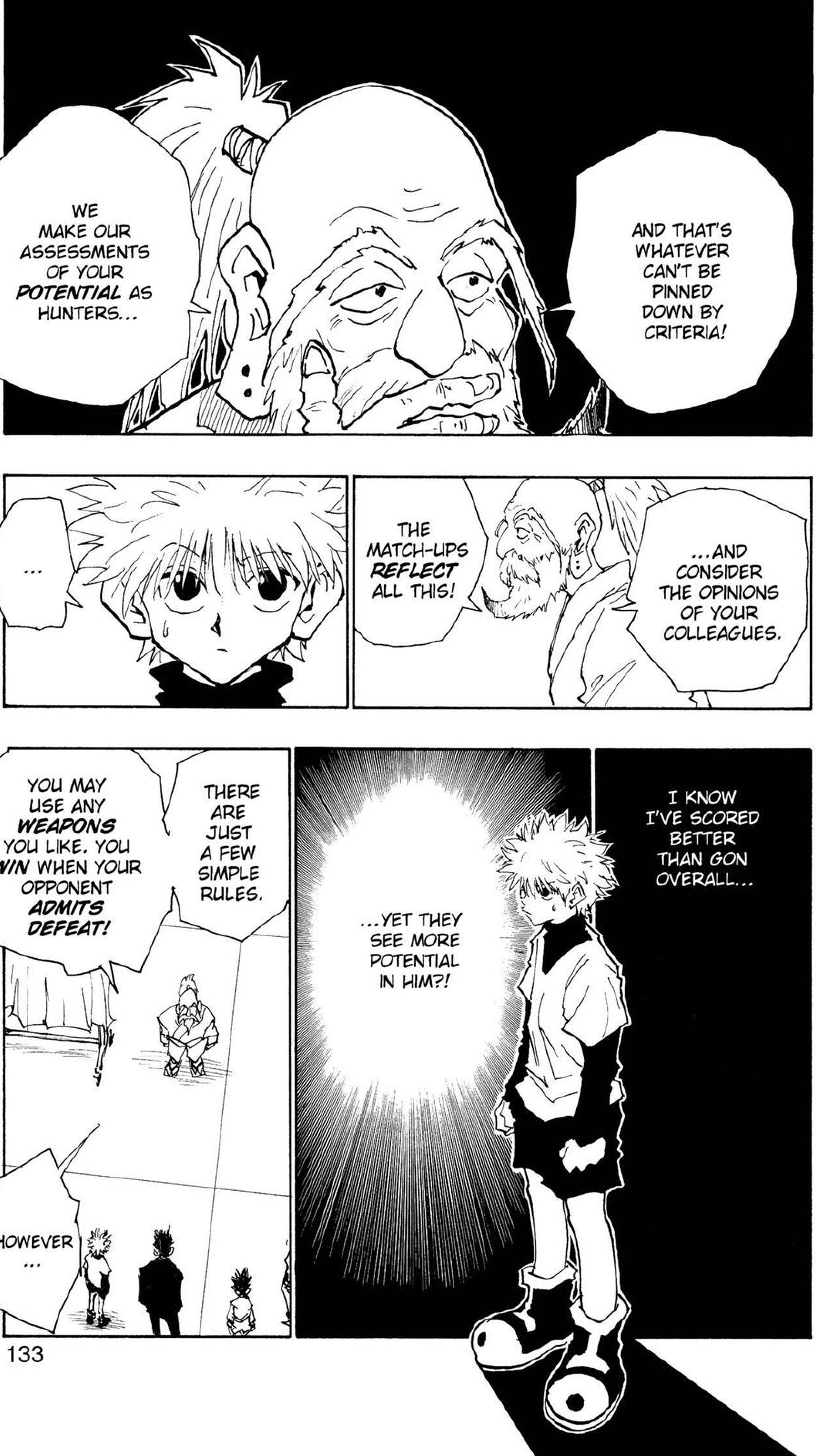

AS FOR THE MATCH-UPS ...
TUG!
... TA-DAH!
!!

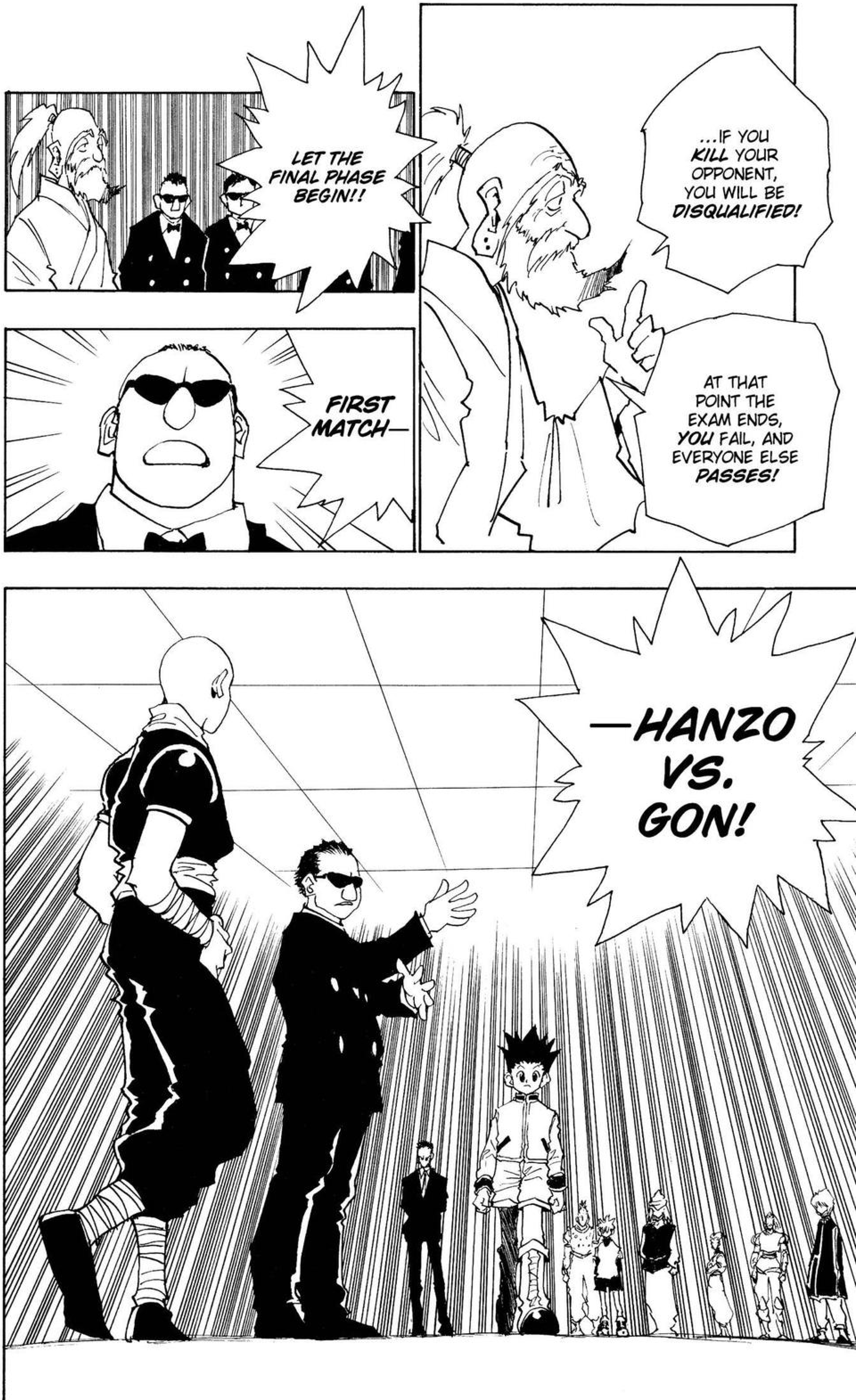

294
405
53
99
301
191
404
44
403

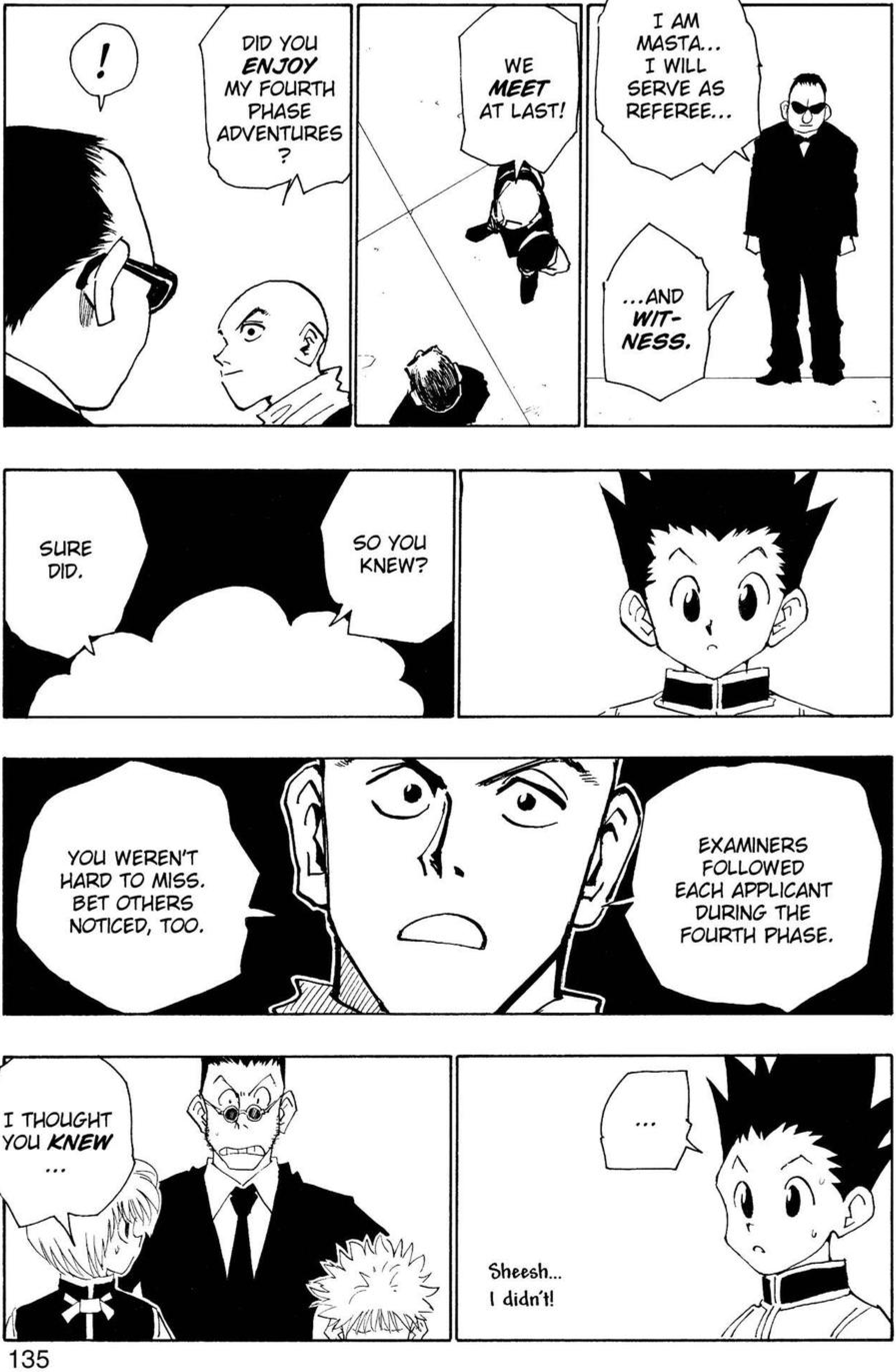

...
THIS MIGHT LOOK DAUNTING...
...BUT HERE'S THE THING...
BWOOOONG!!
...YOU ONLY NEED ONE WIN TO PASS!!
YOU MEAN ...
YES... IT'S THE WINNERS WHO DROP AWAY...
...AND THE LOSERS WHO ADVANCE TO THE NEXT ROUND!

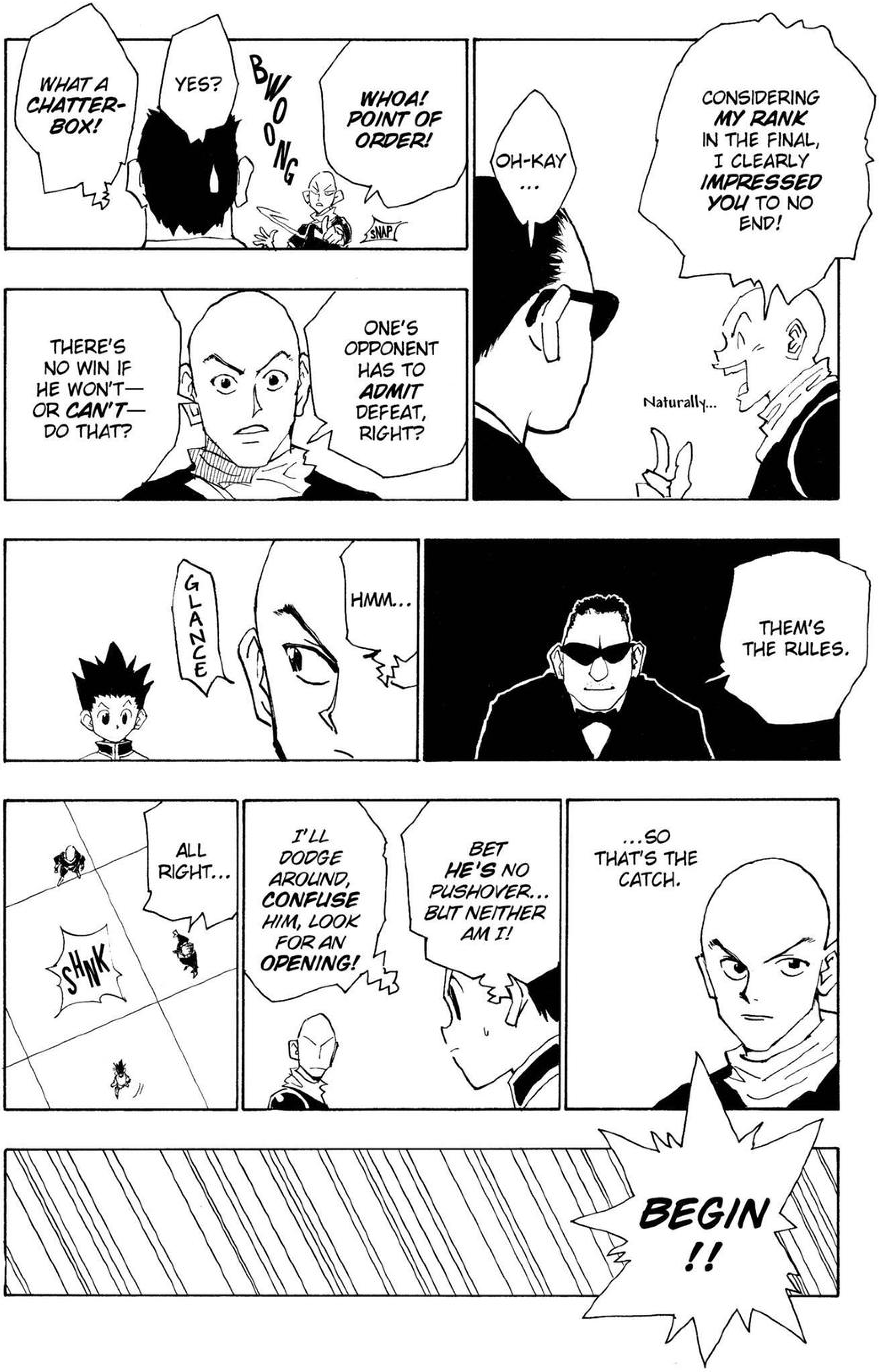

THE FINAL ROUND WILL LEAVE ONE WINNER AND ONE LOSER.
HAVE YOU CAUGHT THE DRIFT YET?
ONLY ONE OF US WON'T PASS?
THAT'S RIGHT.
AND YOU EACH HAVE MORE THAN TWO SHOTS AT WINNING.
ANY QUESTIONS?
WHY ARE THE ROUNDS SO OFF-BALANCE?
Love this guy's fashion sense!
AH, NOW THAT'S A FAIR QUESTION.
IT SIMPLY REFLECTS THE EXAM RECORD OF EACH CONTENDER.
IN A NUTSHELL, THOSE WITH THE BEST SCORES GET THE MOST CHANCES TO WIN.
HMPH!
I'M NOT CONVINCED.
WHAT ELSE IS INVOLVED?

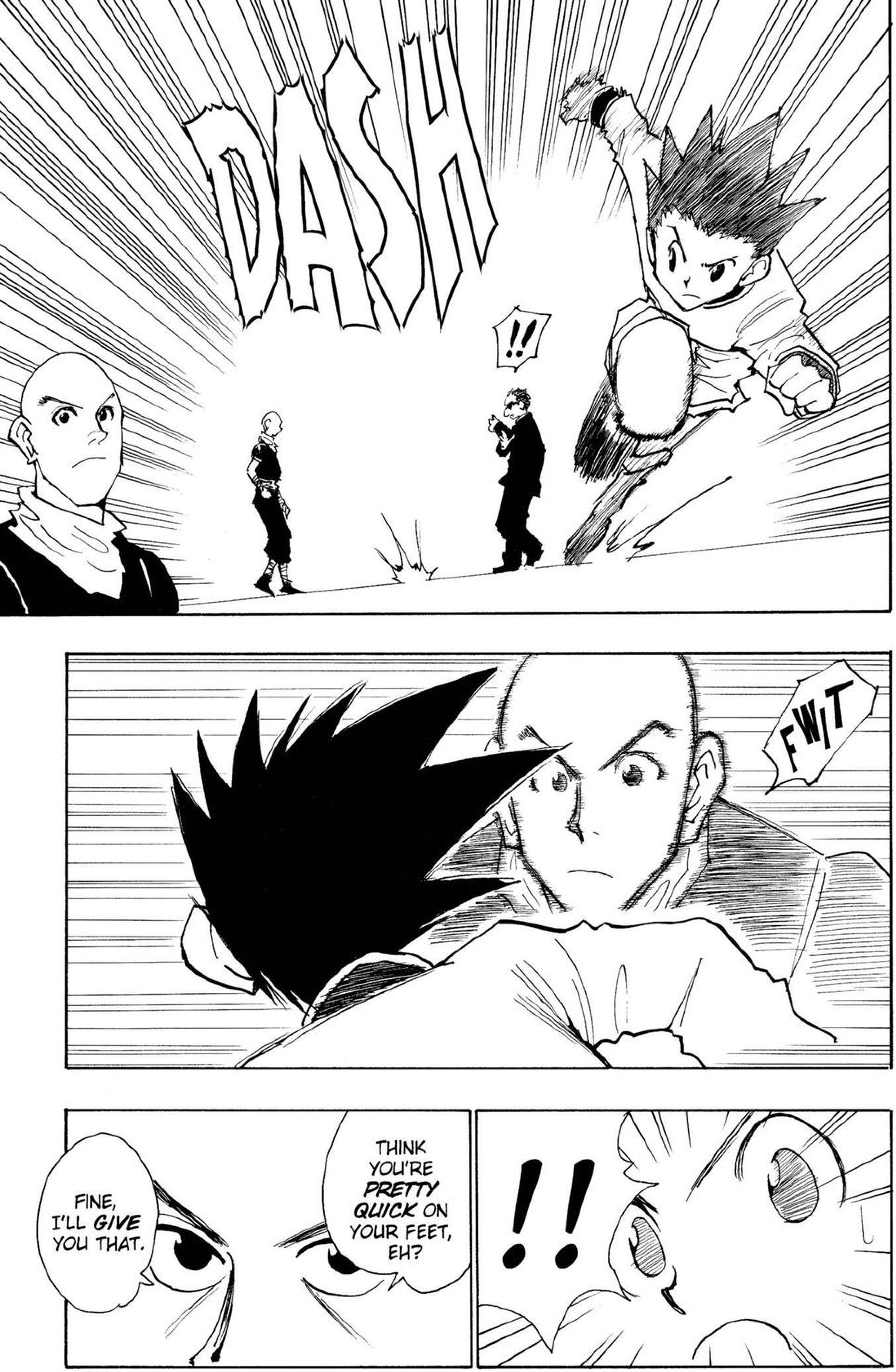

I'M NOT TELLING.
BWOONG!
HUH?! WHY NOT?!
THE SPECIFICS OF OUR SCORING SYSTEM ARE CLASSIFIED.
I WON'T REVEAL YOUR ACTUAL SCORES, BUT...
...IN BROAD TERMS...
...WE CONSIDER THREE BASIC CATEGORIES...
...PHYSICAL ABILITY, MENTAL ACUITY...
...AND OVERALL IMPRESSION.
PHYSICAL ABILITY INVOLVES STRENGTH, AGILITY, ENDURANCE, AND THE SENSES.
MENTAL ACUITY IS THE MEASURE OF FOCUS, FLEXIBILITY, JUDGMENT, AND CREATIVITY.
YOU'VE ALL REACHED THE FINALS...
...SO THERE'S LITTLE YOU NEED TO PROVE IN THOSE AREAS.
WHAT WE COME TO NOW IS IMPRESSION!

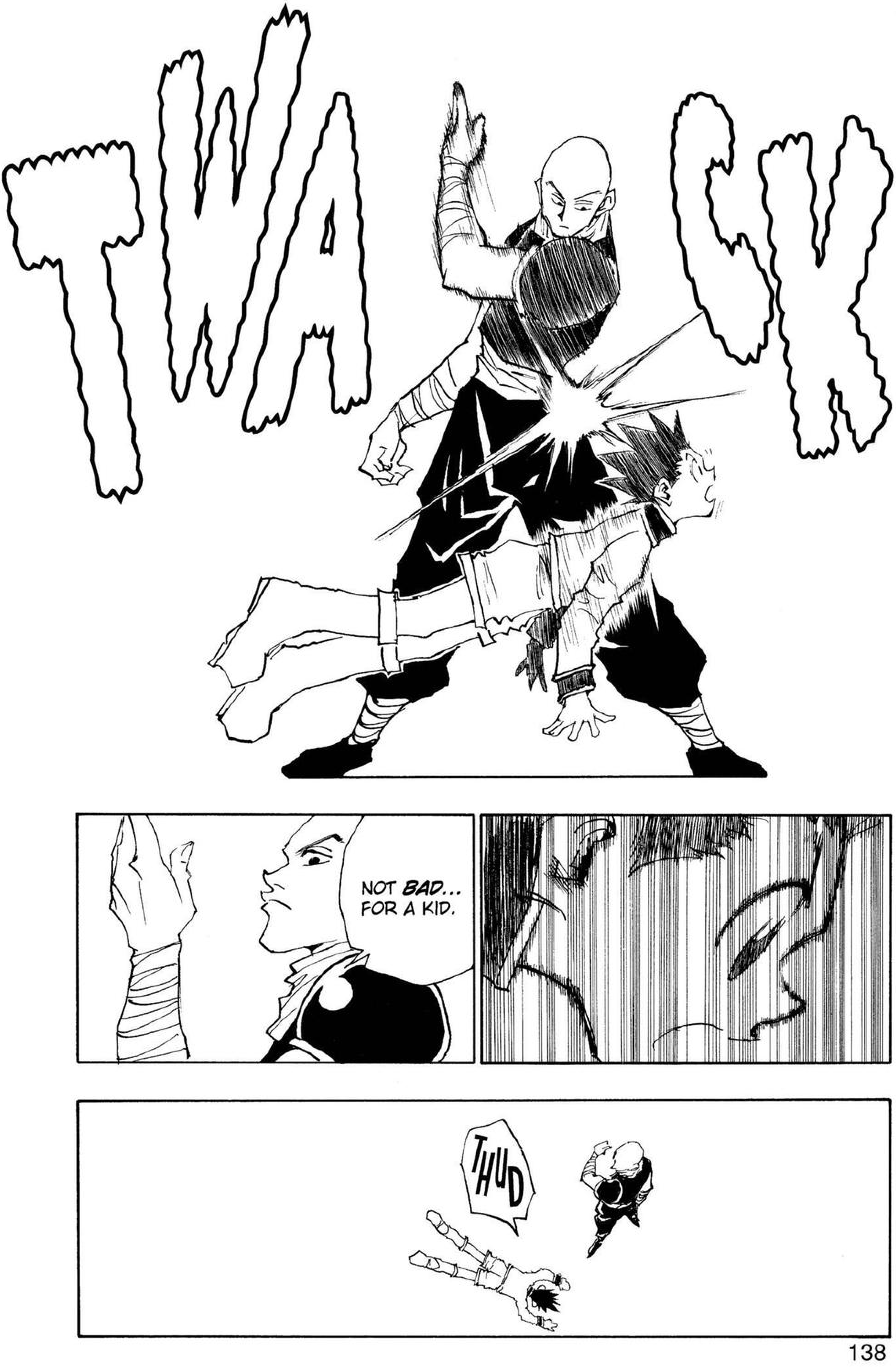

AND THAT'S WHATEVER CAN'T BE PINNED DOWN BY CRITERIA!
WE MAKE OUR ASSESSMENTS OF YOUR ***POTENTIAL*** AS HUNTERS...
...AND CONSIDER THE OPINIONS OF YOUR COLLEAGUES.
THE MATCH-UPS ***REFLECT*** ALL THIS!
...
I KNOW I'VE SCORED BETTER THAN GON OVERALL...
...YET THEY SEE MORE POTENTIAL IN HIM?!
THERE ARE JUST A FEW SIMPLE RULES.
YOU MAY USE ANY ***WEAPONS*** YOU LIKE. YOU ***WIN*** WHEN YOUR OPPONENT ***ADMITS DEFEAT!***
HOWEVER...


...IF YOU **KILL** YOUR OPPONENT, YOU WILL BE **DISQUALIFIED!**
AT THAT POINT THE EXAM ENDS, **YOU** FAIL, AND EVERYONE ELSE **PASSES!**
LET THE FINAL PHASE BEGIN!!
FIRST MATCH—
—HANZO VS. GON!

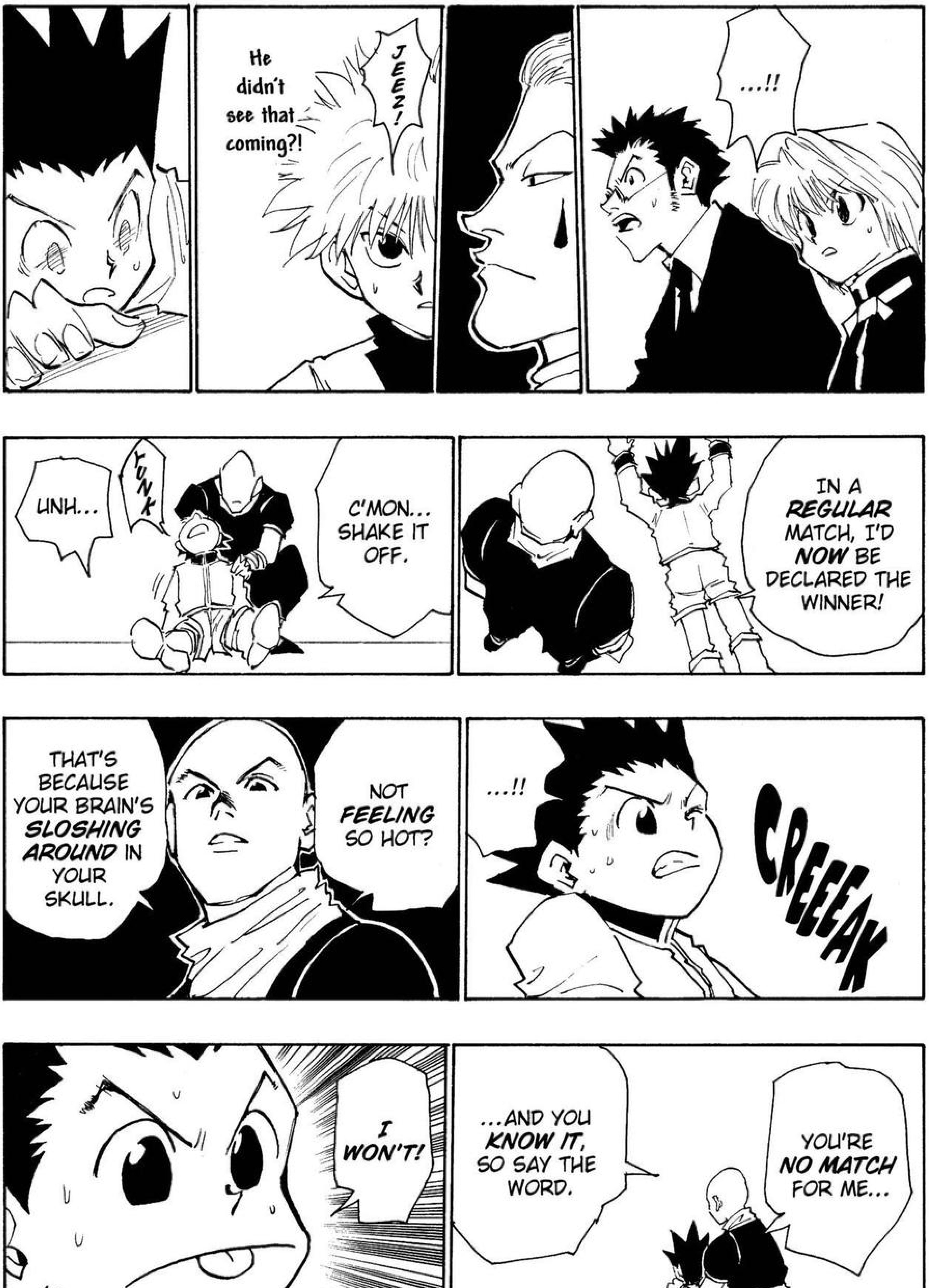

I AM MASTA... I WILL SERVE AS REFEREE...
...AND WITNESS.
WE MEET AT LAST!
DID YOU ENJOY MY FOURTH PHASE ADVENTURES?
!
SO YOU KNEW?
SURE DID.
EXAMINERS FOLLOWED EACH APPLICANT DURING THE FOURTH PHASE.
YOU WEREN'T HARD TO MISS. BET OTHERS NOTICED, TOO.
...
Sheesh... I didn't!
I THOUGHT YOU KNEW...

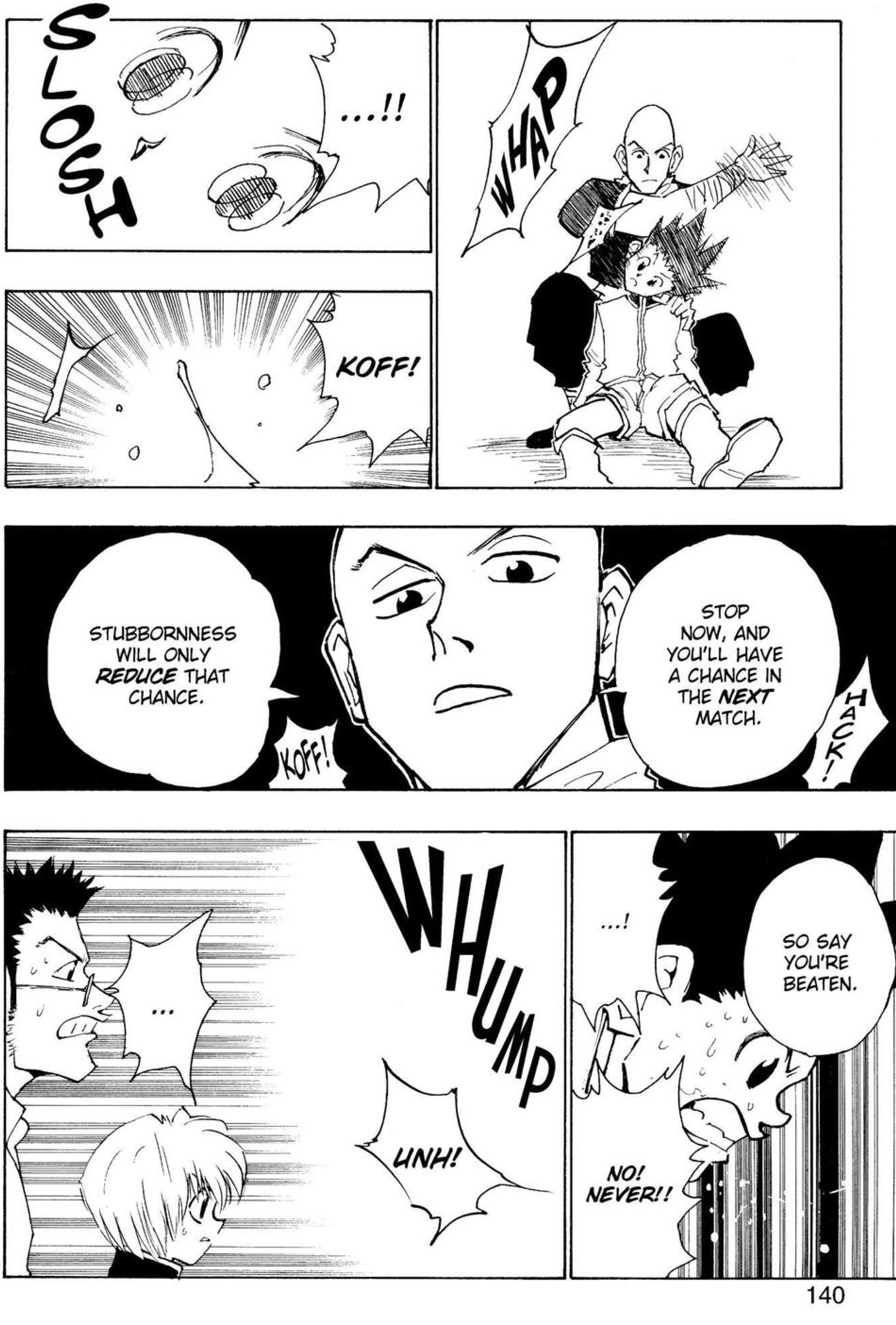

CONSIDERING MY RANK IN THE FINAL, I CLEARLY IMPRESSED YOU TO NO END!
OH-KAY…
Naturally…
WHOA! POINT OF ORDER!
BWOONG
SNAP
YES?
WHAT A CHATTER-BOX!
ONE'S OPPONENT HAS TO ADMIT DEFEAT, RIGHT?
THERE'S NO WIN IF HE WON'T— OR CAN'T— DO THAT?
THEM'S THE RULES.
HMM…
GLANCE
…SO THAT'S THE CATCH.
BET HE'S NO PUSHOVER… BUT NEITHER AM I!
I'LL DODGE AROUND, CONFUSE HIM, LOOK FOR AN OPENING!
ALL RIGHT…
SHNK
BEGIN!!

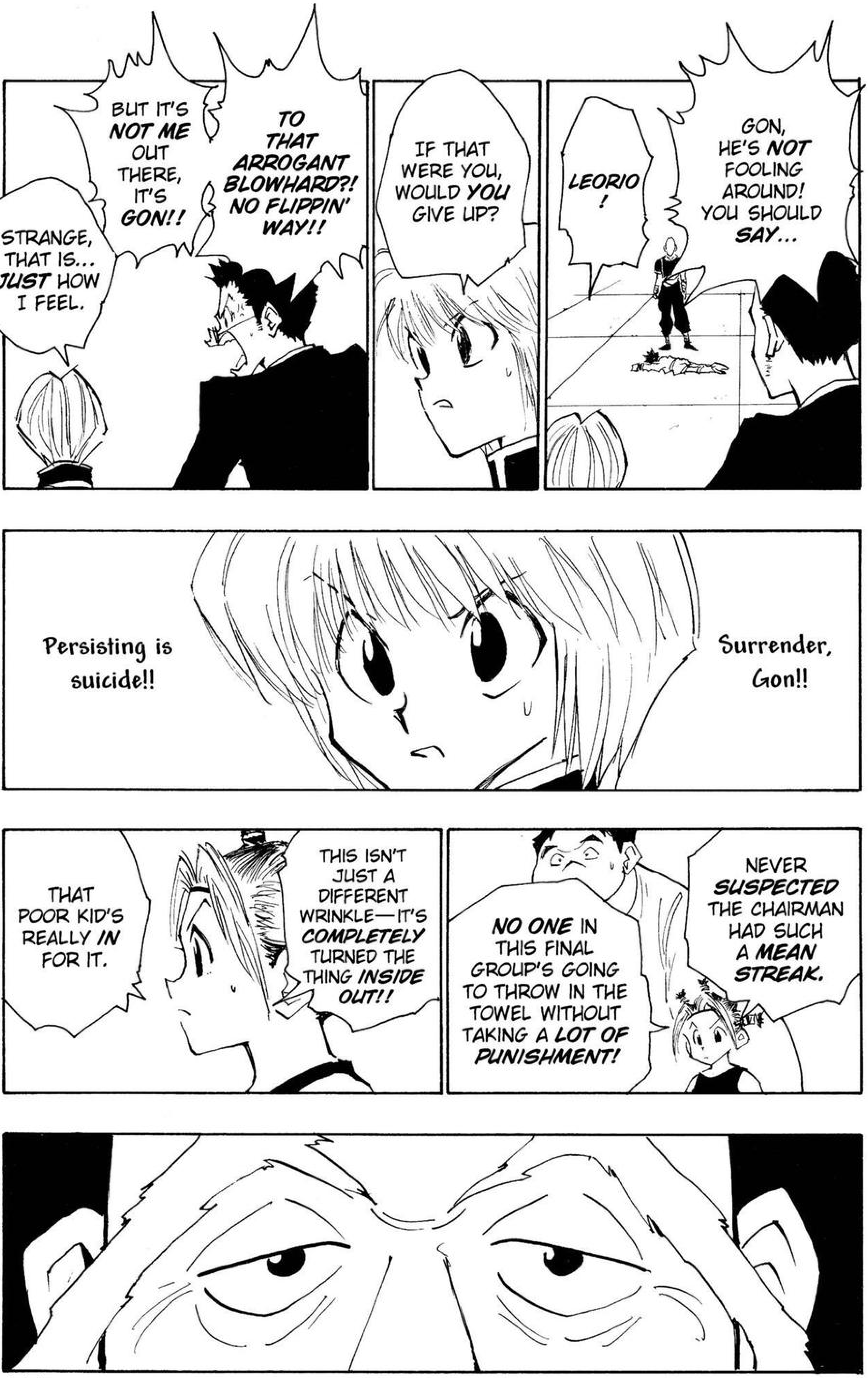

DASH
!!
FWIT
!!
THINK YOU'RE **PRETTY QUICK** ON YOUR FEET, EH?
FINE, I'LL **GIVE** YOU THAT.

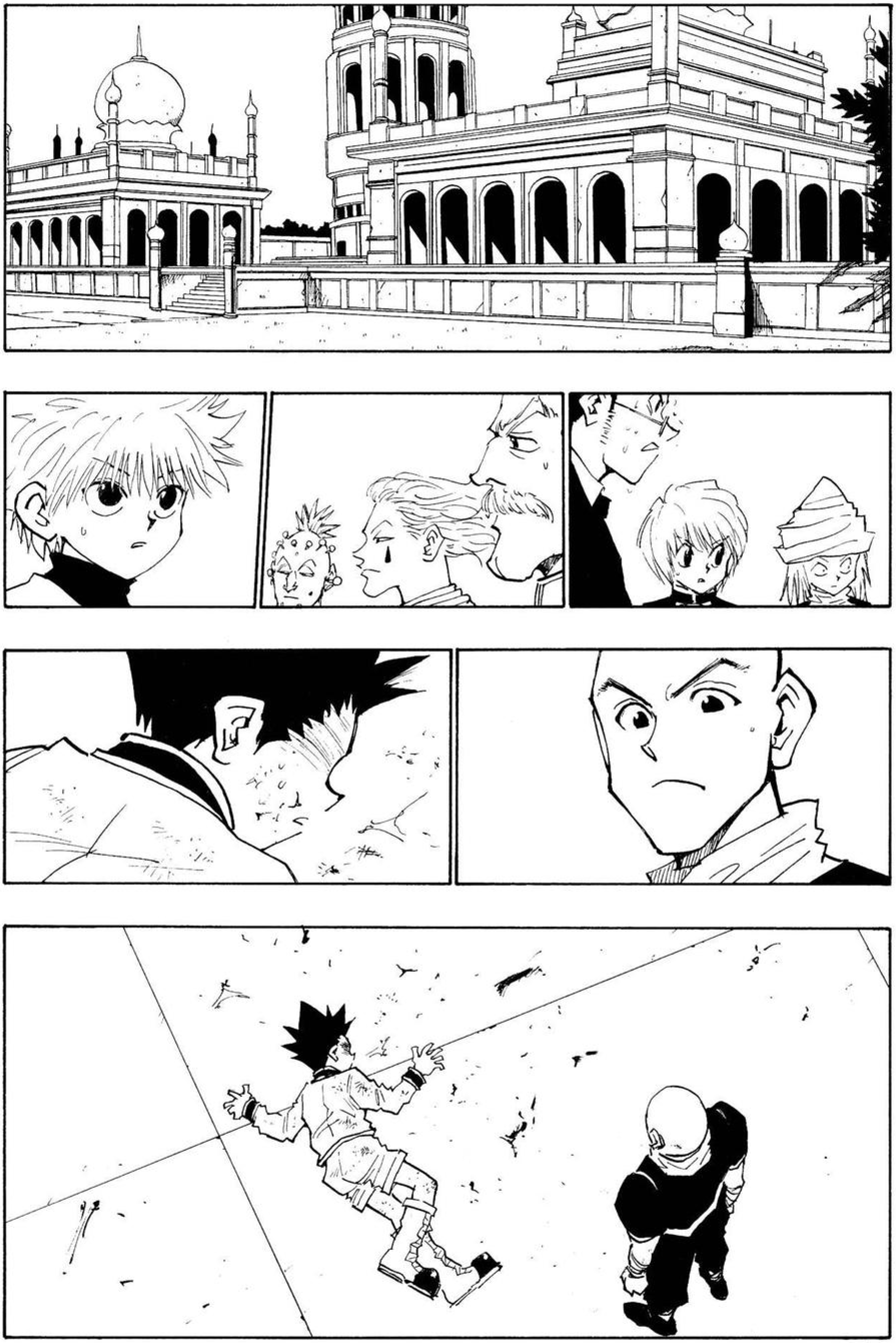

THWACK
NOT *BAD*...
FOR A KID.
THUD

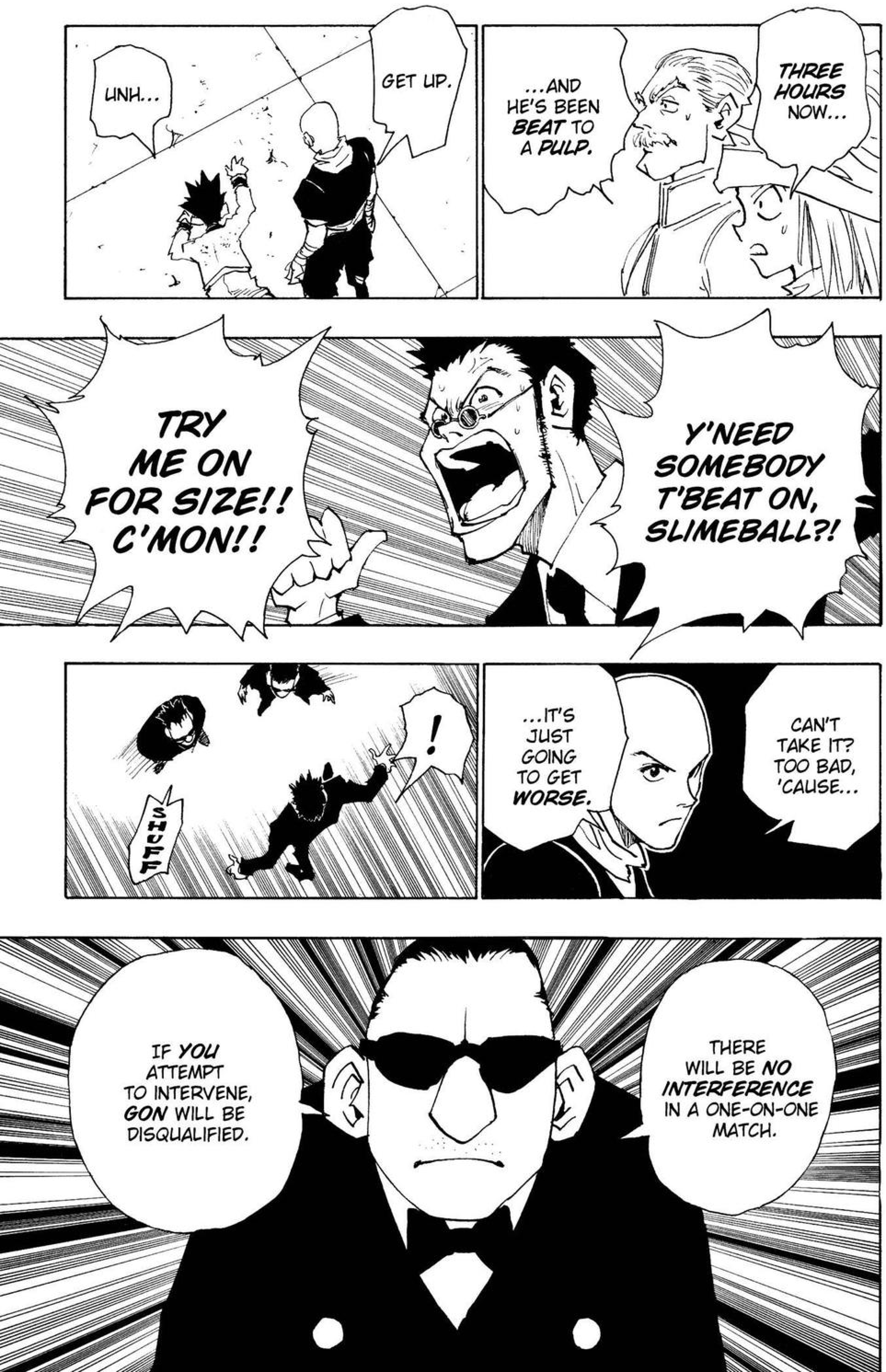
READ THIS WAY

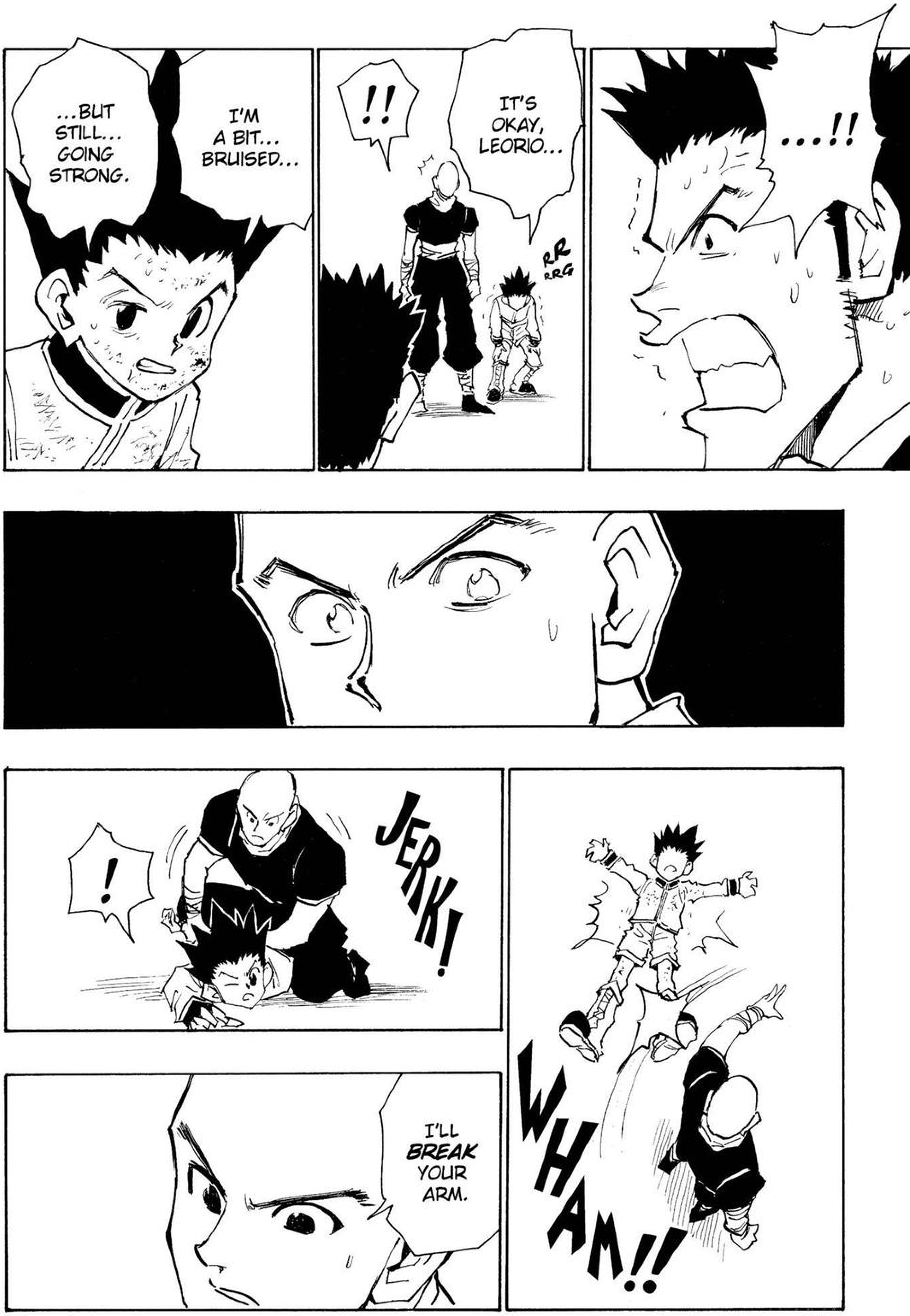

...!!
JEEZ!
He didn't see that coming?!
IN A REGULAR MATCH, I'D NOW BE DECLARED THE WINNER!
C'MON... SHAKE IT OFF.
YUNK
UNH...
CREEEAK
...!!
NOT FEELING SO HOT?
THAT'S BECAUSE YOUR BRAIN'S SLOSHING AROUND IN YOUR SKULL.
YOU'RE NO MATCH FOR ME...
...AND YOU KNOW IT, SO SAY THE WORD.
I WON'T!

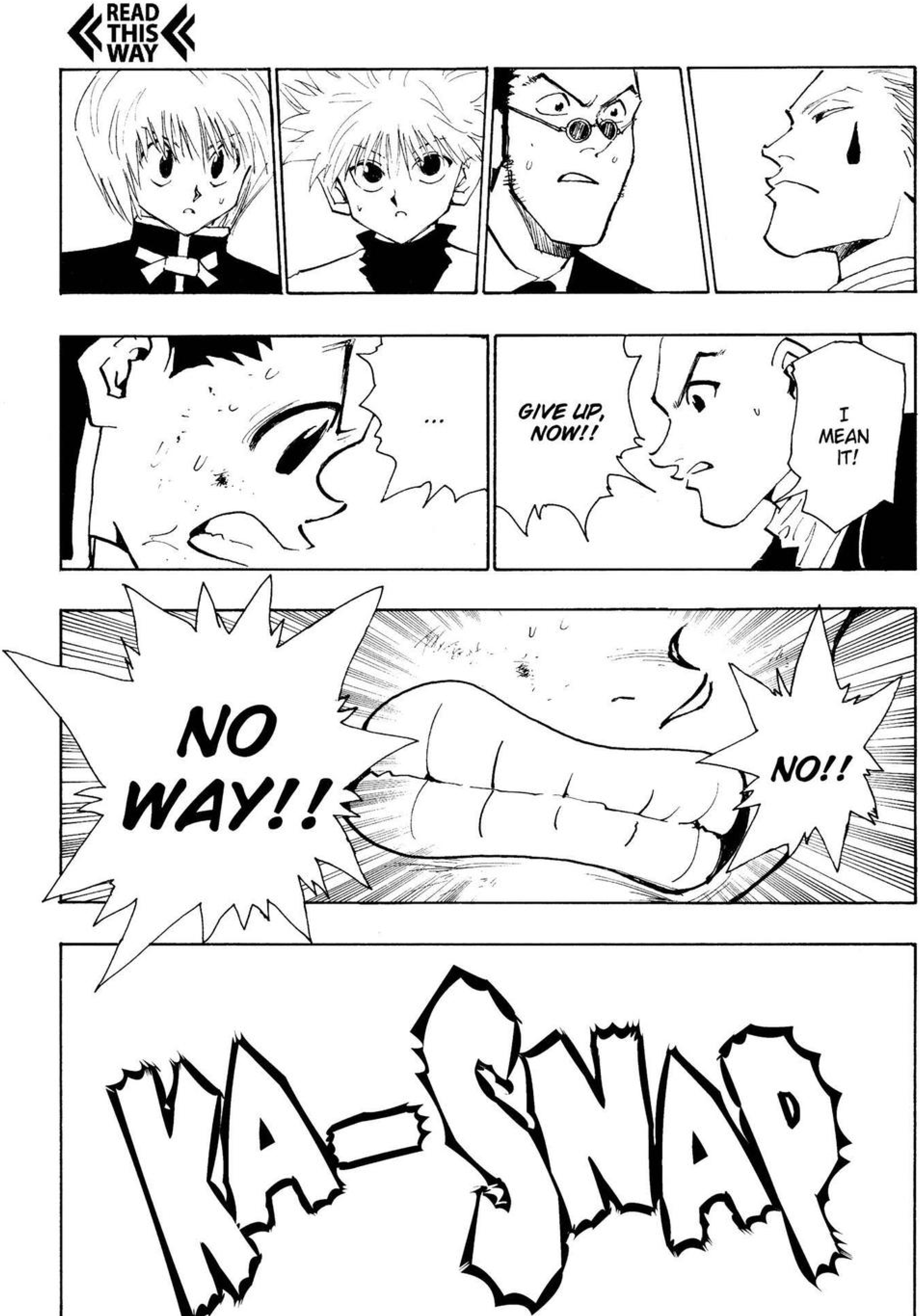

WHAP
SLOSH
...!!
KOFF!
STOP NOW, AND YOU'LL HAVE A CHANCE IN THE *NEXT* MATCH.
HACK!
STUBBORNNESS WILL ONLY *REDUCE* THAT CHANCE.
KOFF!
SO SAY YOU'RE BEATEN.
...!
NO! NEVER!!
WHUMP
UNH!
...

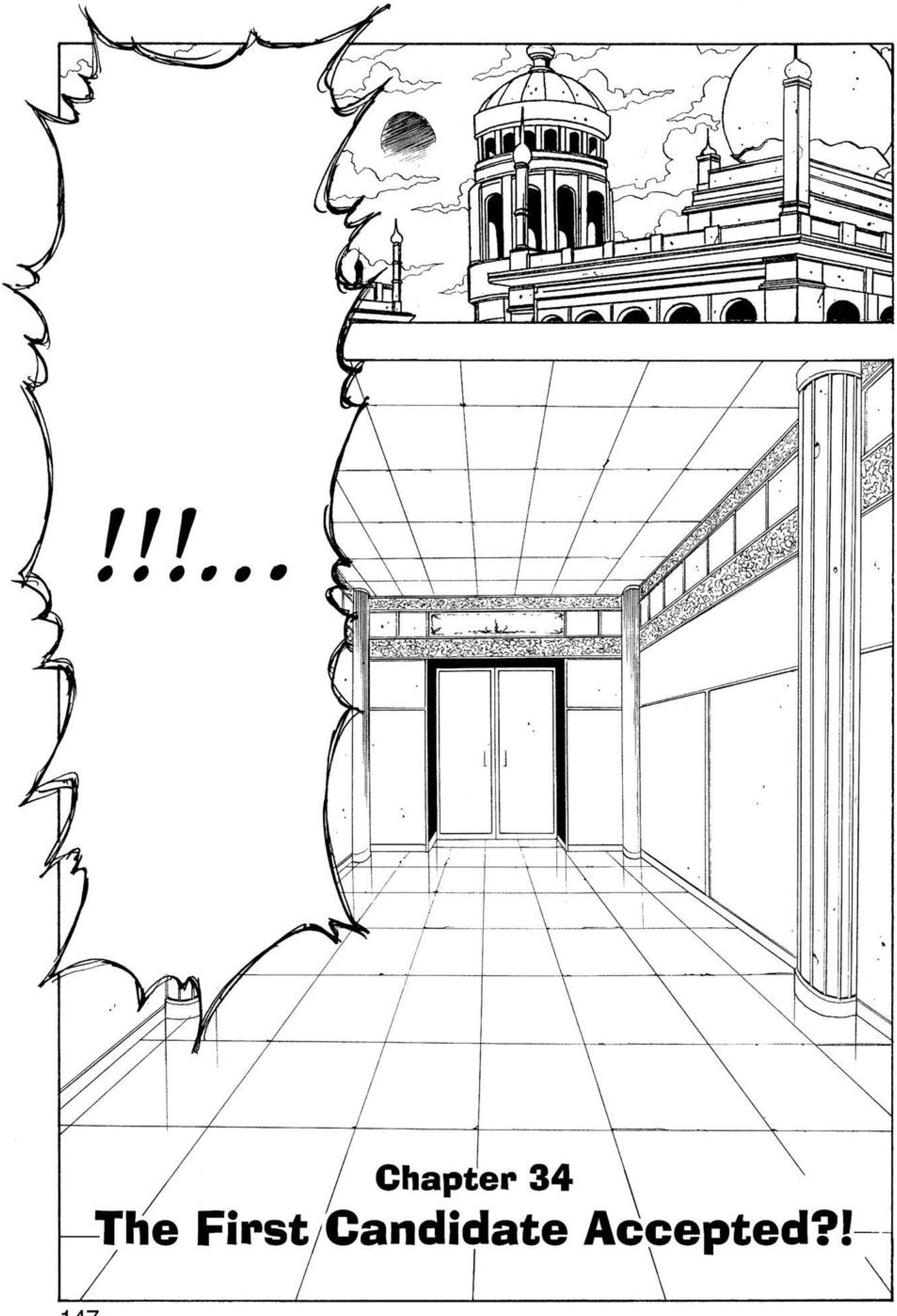

GON, HE'S **NOT** FOOLING AROUND! YOU SHOULD **SAY...**
LEORIO!
IF THAT WERE YOU, WOULD **YOU** GIVE UP?
TO THAT ARROGANT BLOWHARD?! NO FLIPPIN' WAY!!
STRANGE, THAT IS... ***JUST*** HOW I FEEL.
BUT IT'S ***NOT ME*** OUT THERE, IT'S ***GON!!***
Surrender, Gon!!
Persisting is suicide!!
NEVER ***SUSPECTED*** THE CHAIRMAN HAD SUCH A ***MEAN STREAK.***
NO ONE IN THIS FINAL GROUP'S GOING TO THROW IN THE TOWEL WITHOUT TAKING A ***LOT OF PUNISHMENT!***
THIS ISN'T JUST A DIFFERENT WRINKLE—IT'S ***COMPLETELY*** TURNED THE THING ***INSIDE OUT!!***
THAT POOR KID'S REALLY ***IN*** FOR IT.




THREE HOURS NOW...
...AND HE'S BEEN BEAT TO A PULP.
GET UP.
UNH...
Y'NEED SOMEBODY T'BEAT ON, SLIMEBALL?!
TRY ME ON FOR SIZE!! C'MON!!
CAN'T TAKE IT? TOO BAD, 'CAUSE...
...IT'S JUST GOING TO GET WORSE.
!
SHUFF
THERE WILL BE NO INTERFERENCE IN A ONE-ON-ONE MATCH.
IF YOU ATTEMPT TO INTERVENE, GON WILL BE DISQUALIFIED.

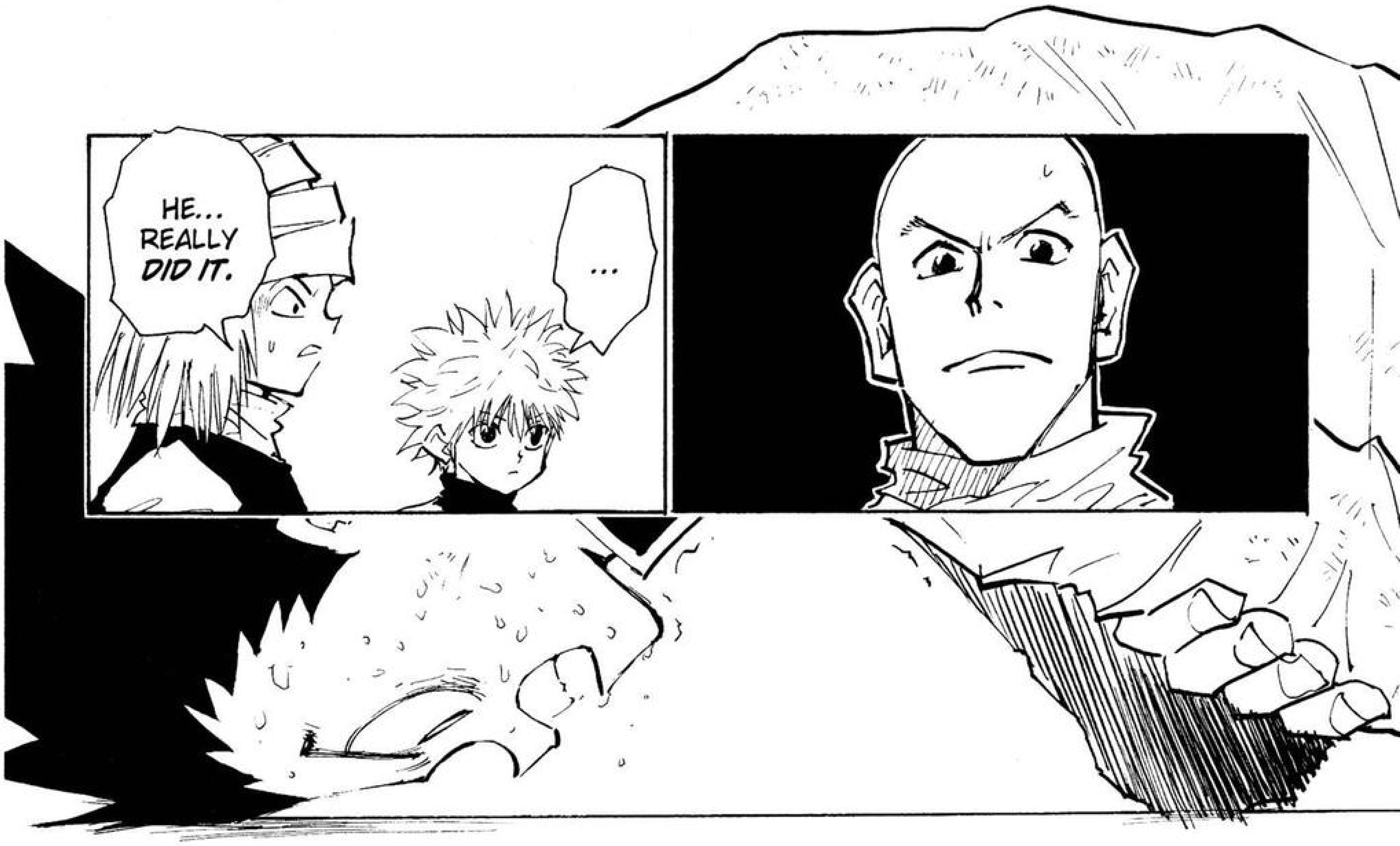

...!!
IT'S OKAY, LEORIO...
!!
RRRRG
I'M A BIT... BRUISED...
...BUT STILL... GOING STRONG.
WHAM!!
JERK!
!
I'LL BREAK YOUR ARM.

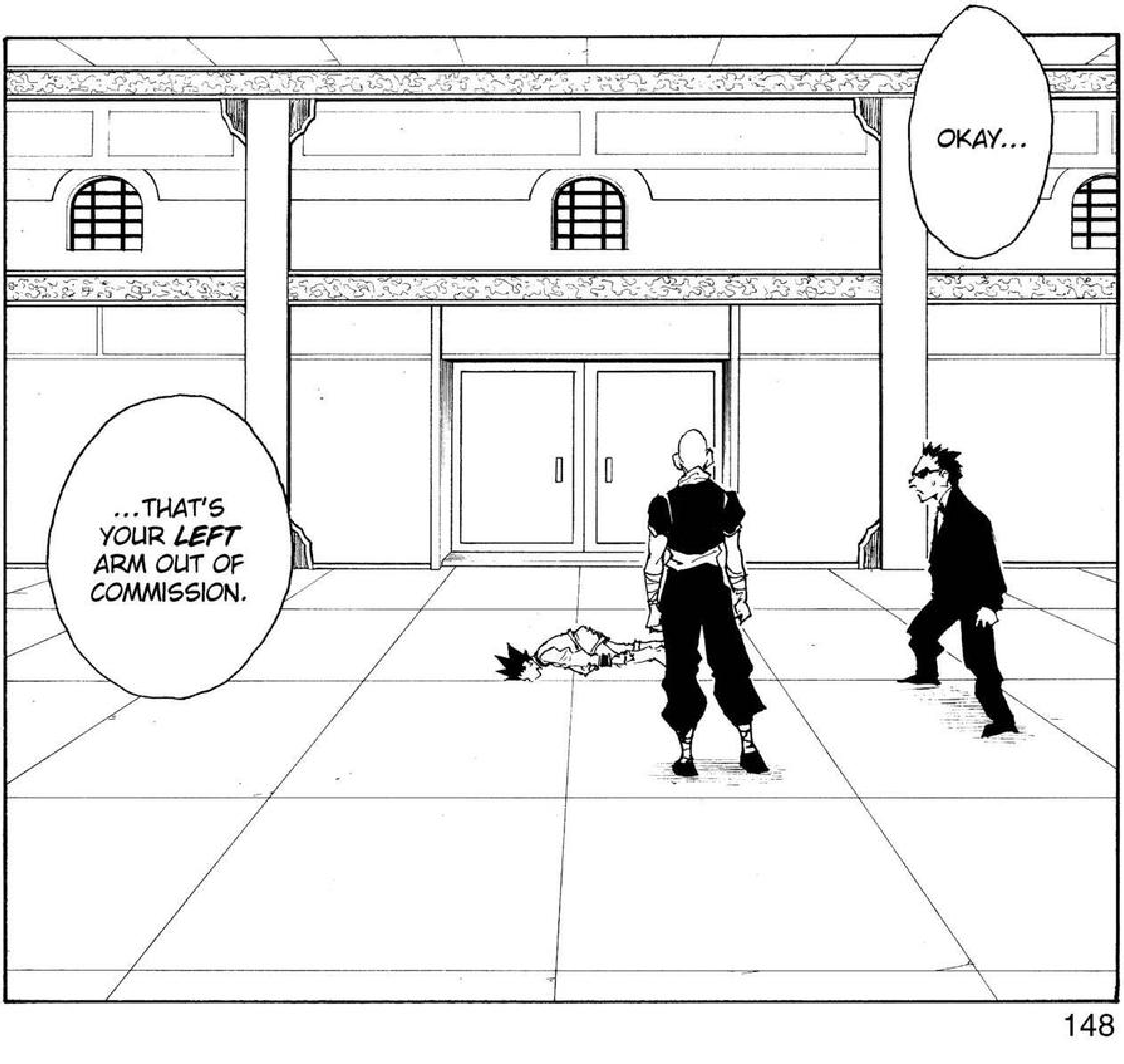

READ THIS WAY
...
GIVE UP, NOW!!
I MEAN IT!
NO WAY!!
NO!!
KA-SNAP



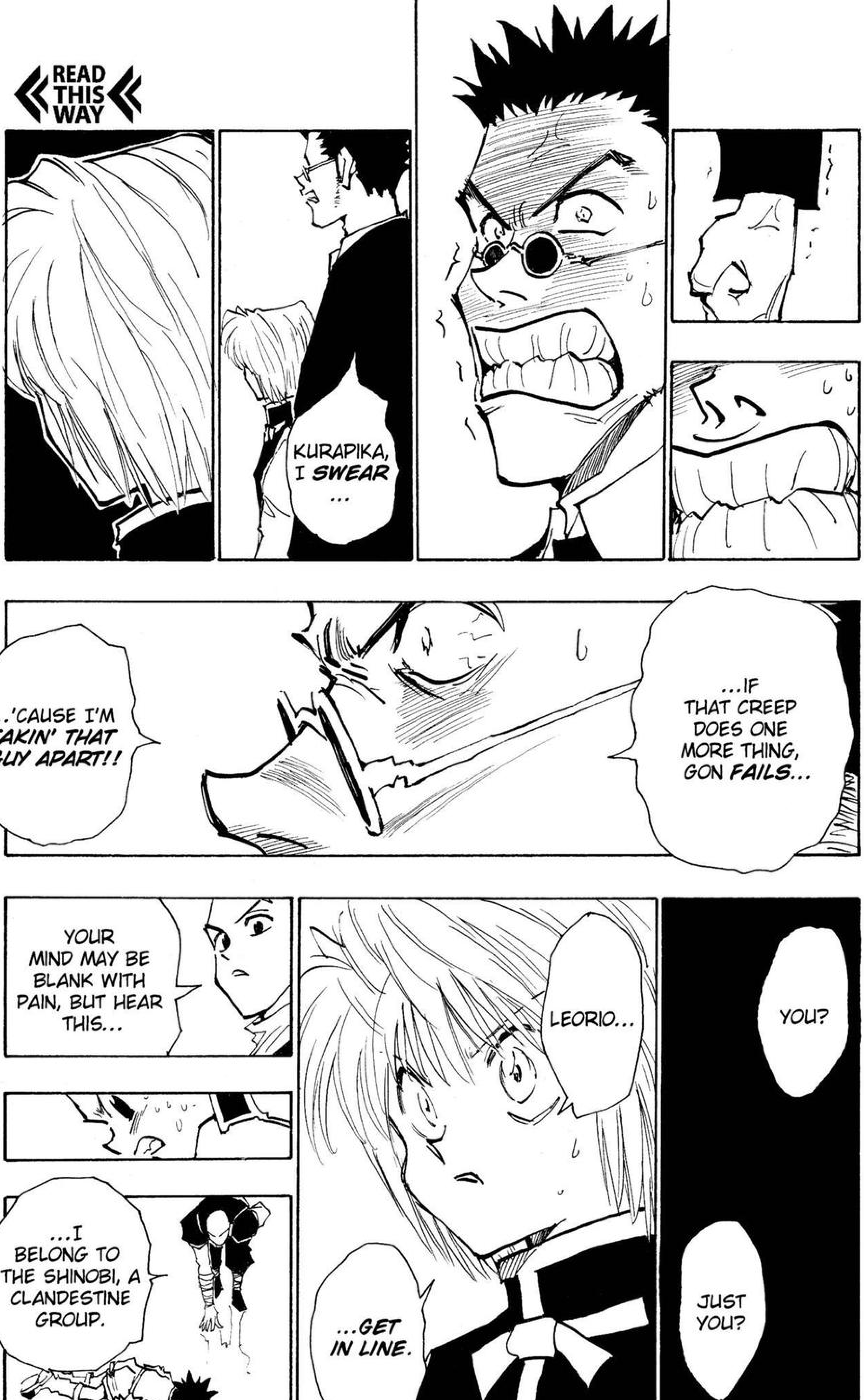
Chapter 34

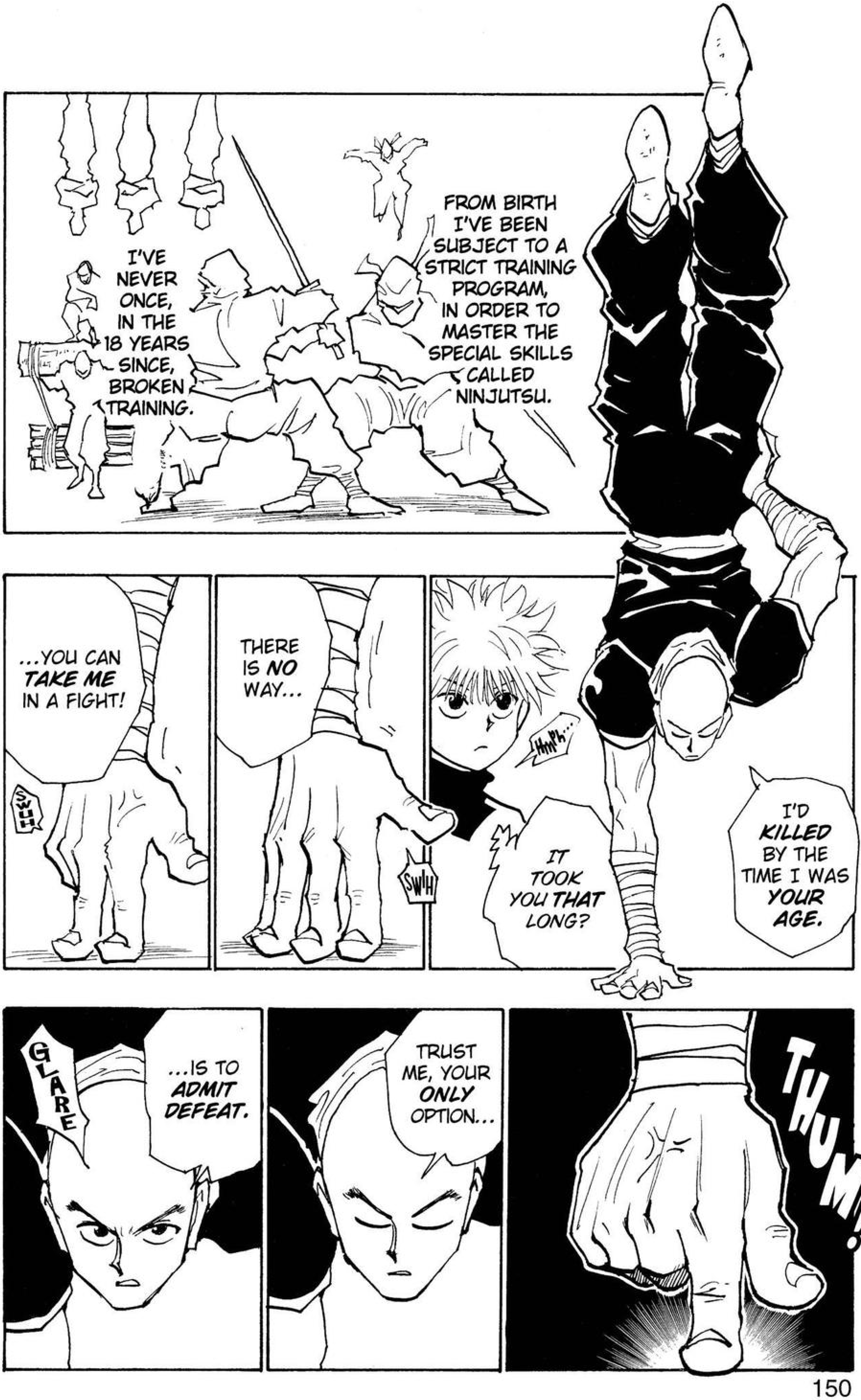
The First Candidate Accepted?!


...
HE... REALLY DID IT.

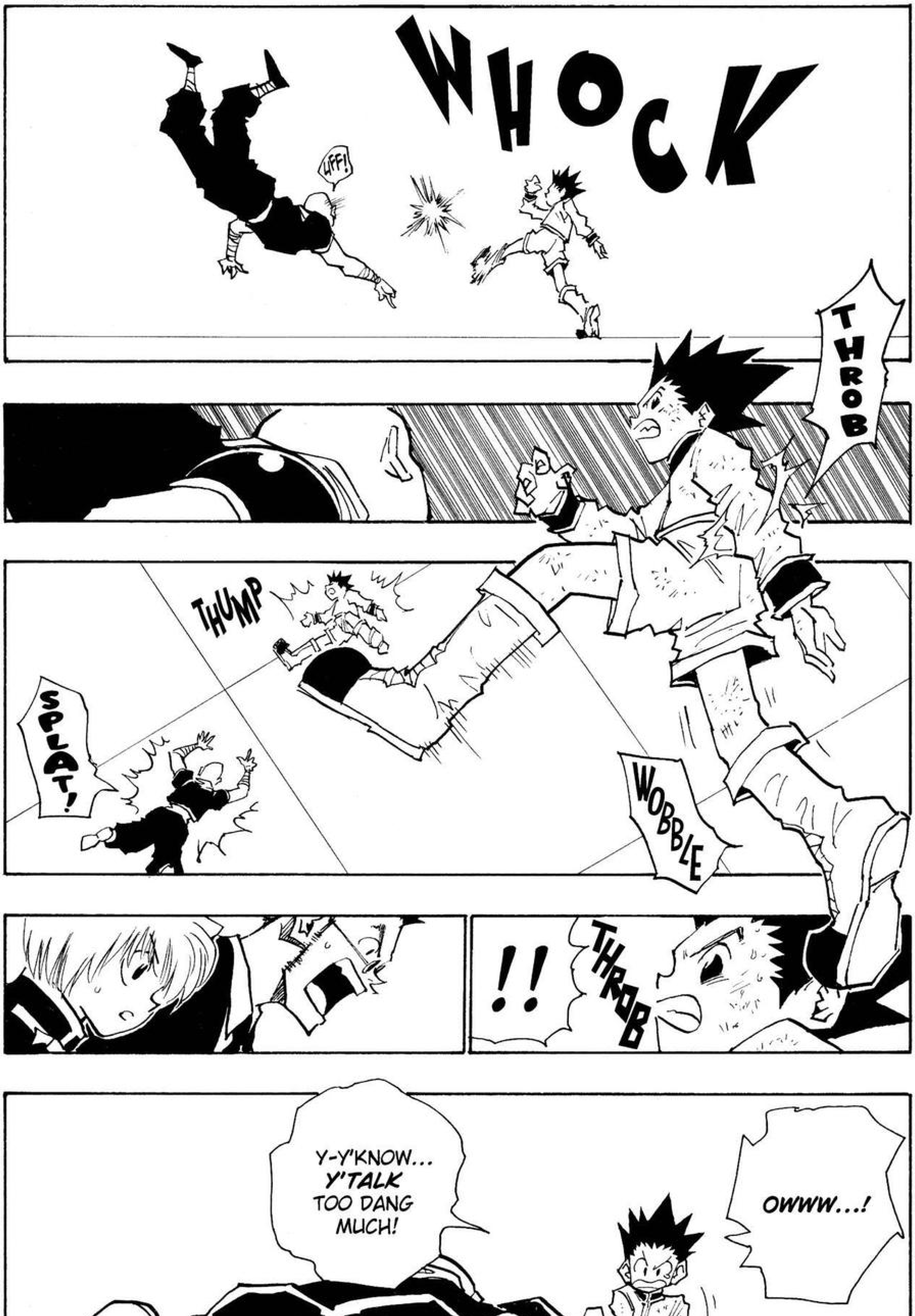

OKAY...
...THAT'S YOUR LEFT ARM OUT OF COMMISSION.

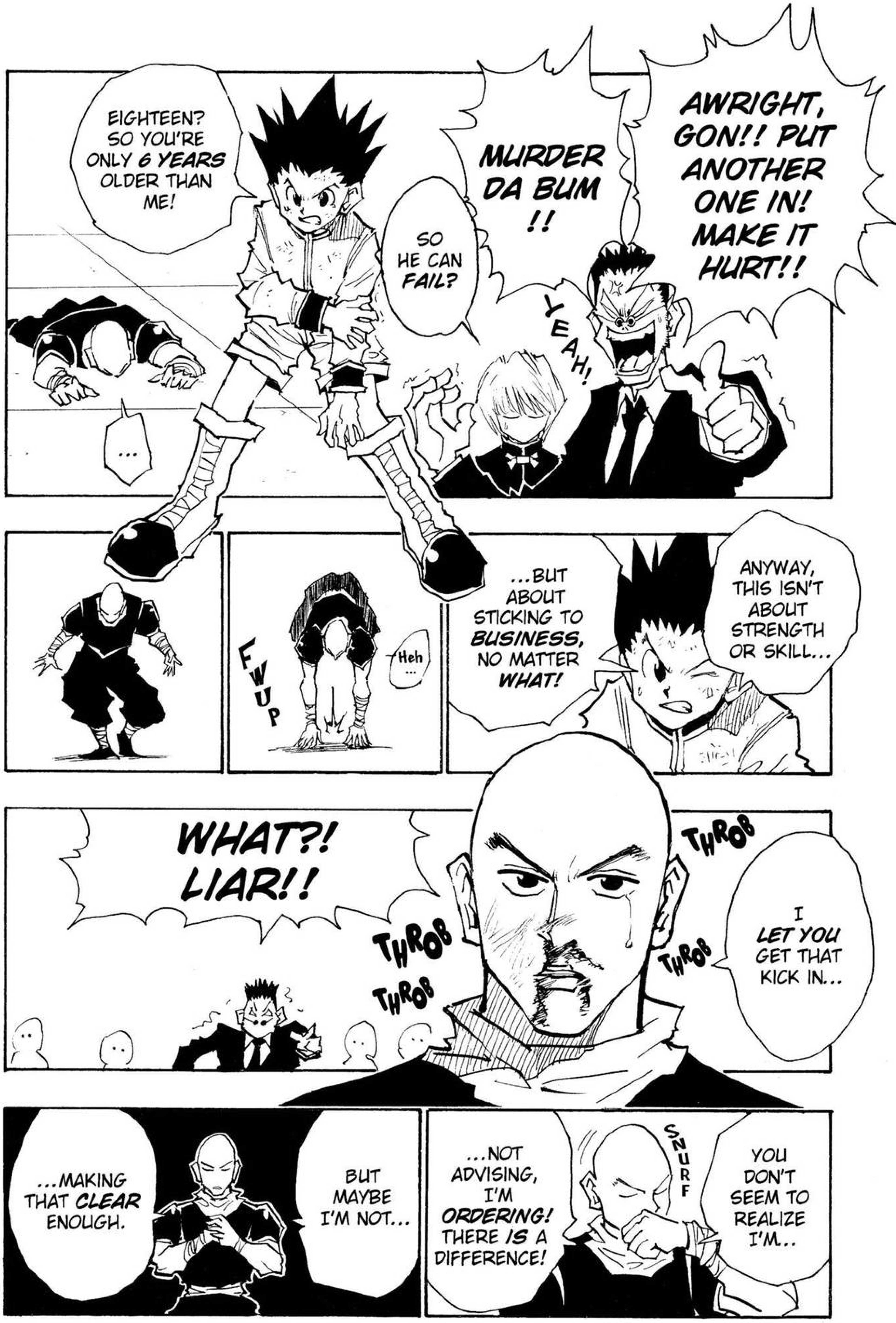
READ THIS WAY


KURAPIKA, I SWEAR ...
...IF THAT CREEP DOES ONE MORE THING, GON FAILS...
...'CAUSE I'M TAKIN' THAT GUY APART!!
YOU?
JUST YOU?
LEORIO...
...GET IN LINE.
YOUR MIND MAY BE BLANK WITH PAIN, BUT HEAR THIS...
...I BELONG TO THE SHINOBI, A CLANDESTINE GROUP.

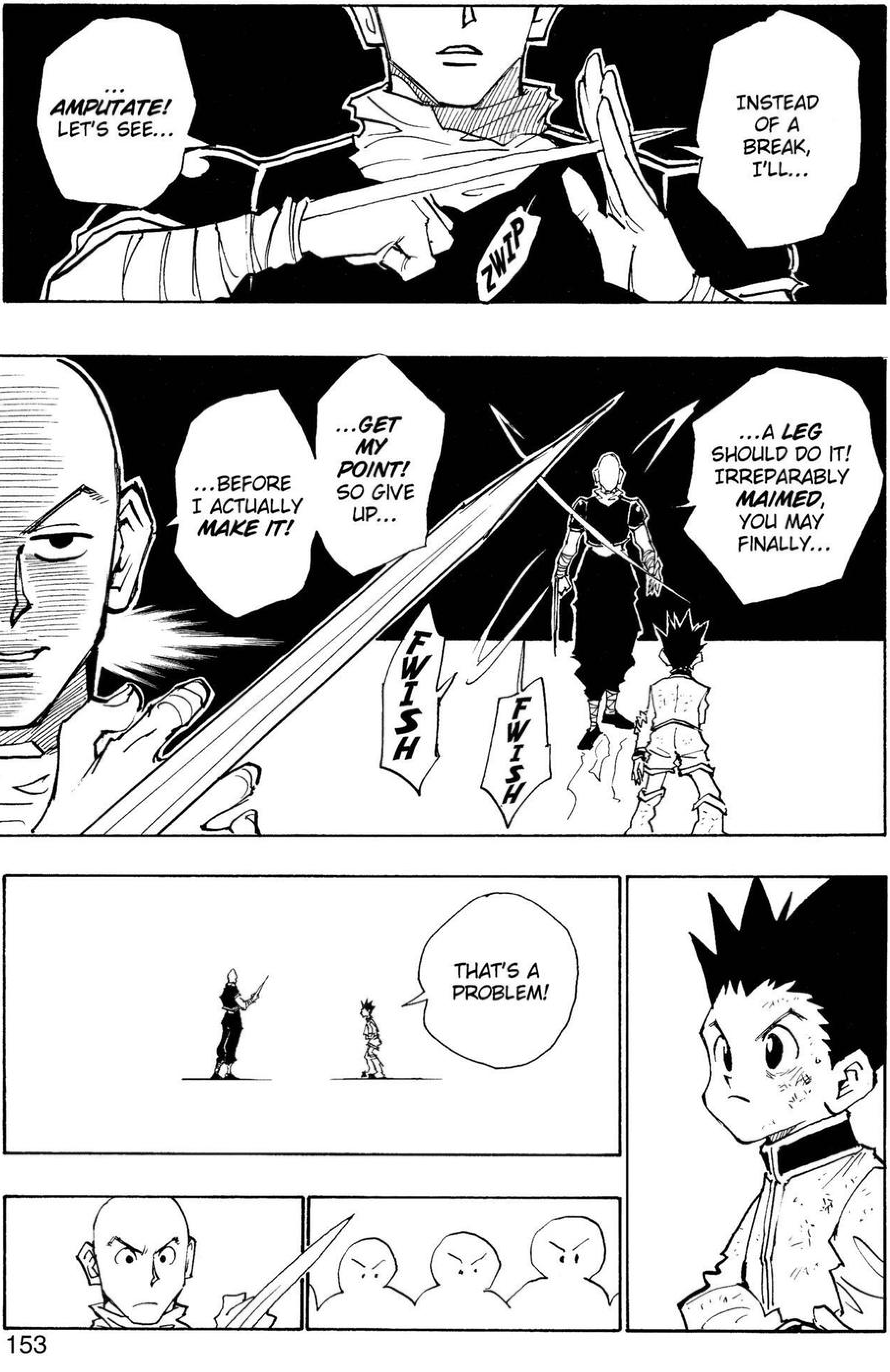

FROM BIRTH I'VE BEEN SUBJECT TO A STRICT TRAINING PROGRAM, IN ORDER TO MASTER THE SPECIAL SKILLS CALLED NINJUTSU.
I'VE NEVER ONCE, IN THE 18 YEARS SINCE, BROKEN TRAINING.
I'D KILLED BY THE TIME I WAS YOUR AGE.
IT TOOK YOU THAT LONG?
HMPH...
SWIH
THERE IS NO WAY...
SWUH
...YOU CAN TAKE ME IN A FIGHT!
THUM!
TRUST ME, YOUR ONLY OPTION...
...IS TO ADMIT DEFEAT.
GLARE

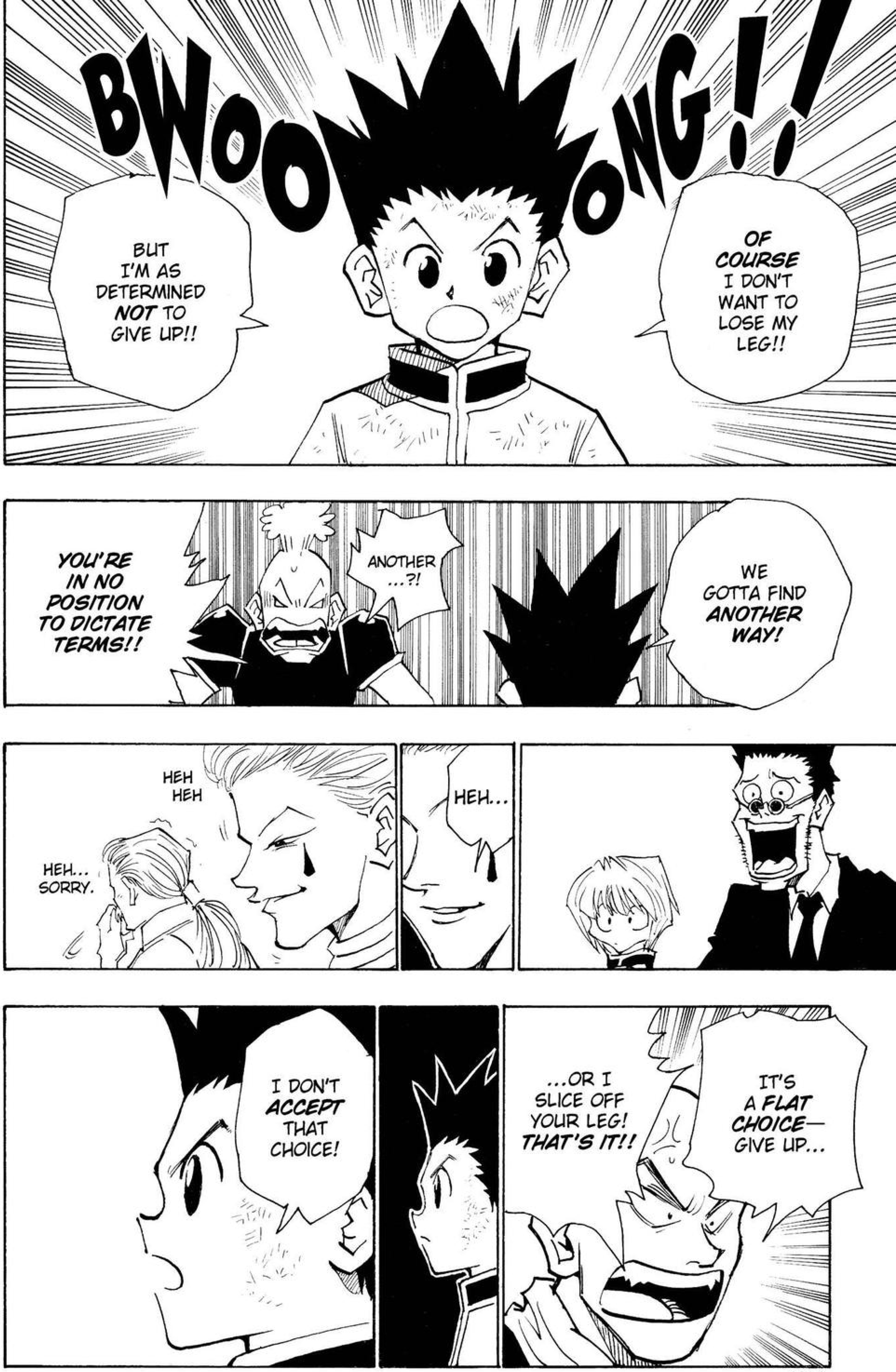
READ THIS WAY

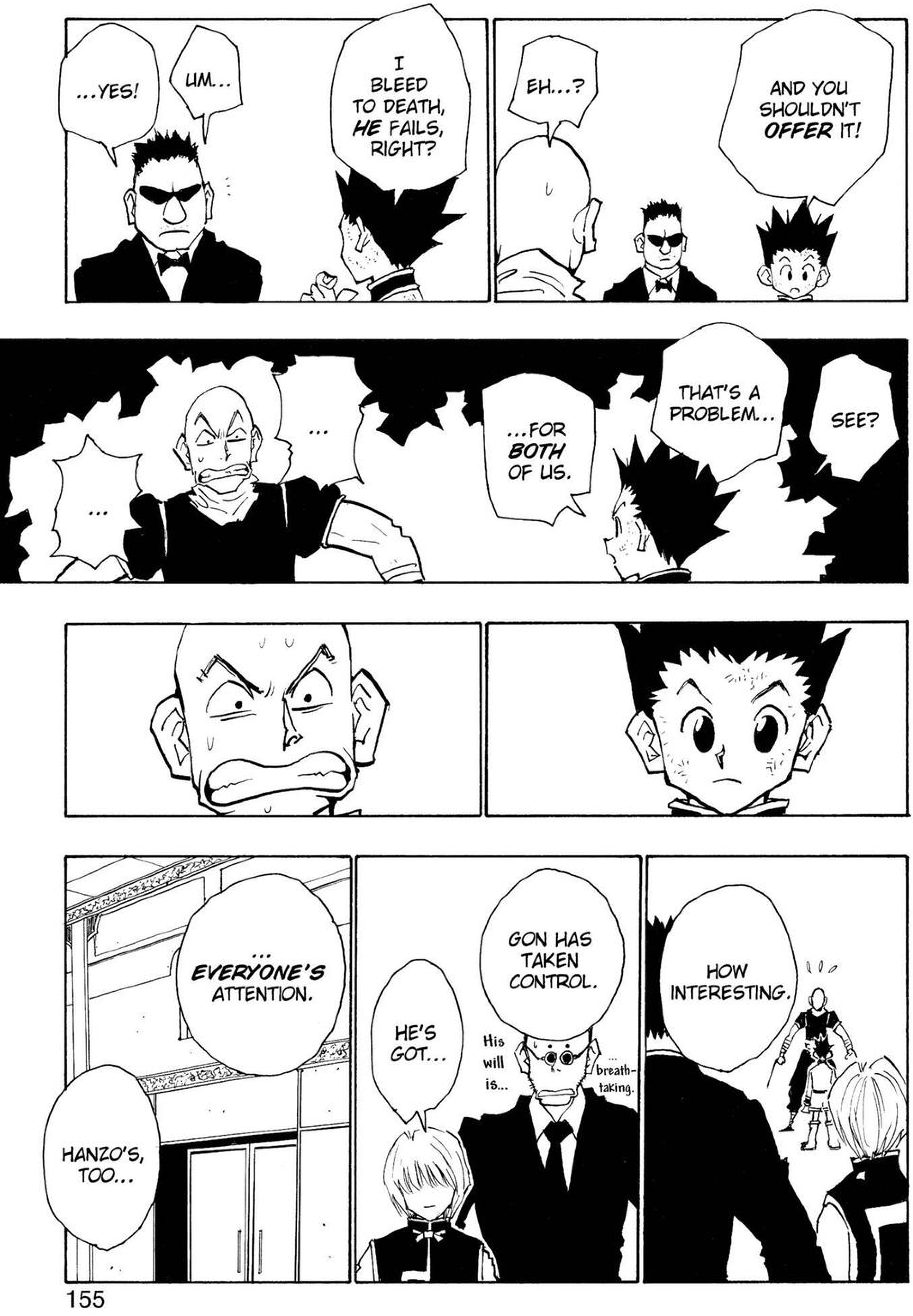

WHOCK
UFF!
THROB
THUMP
SPLAT!
WOBBLE
THROB
!!
OWWW...!
Y-Y'KNOW... ***Y'TALK*** TOO DANG MUCH!

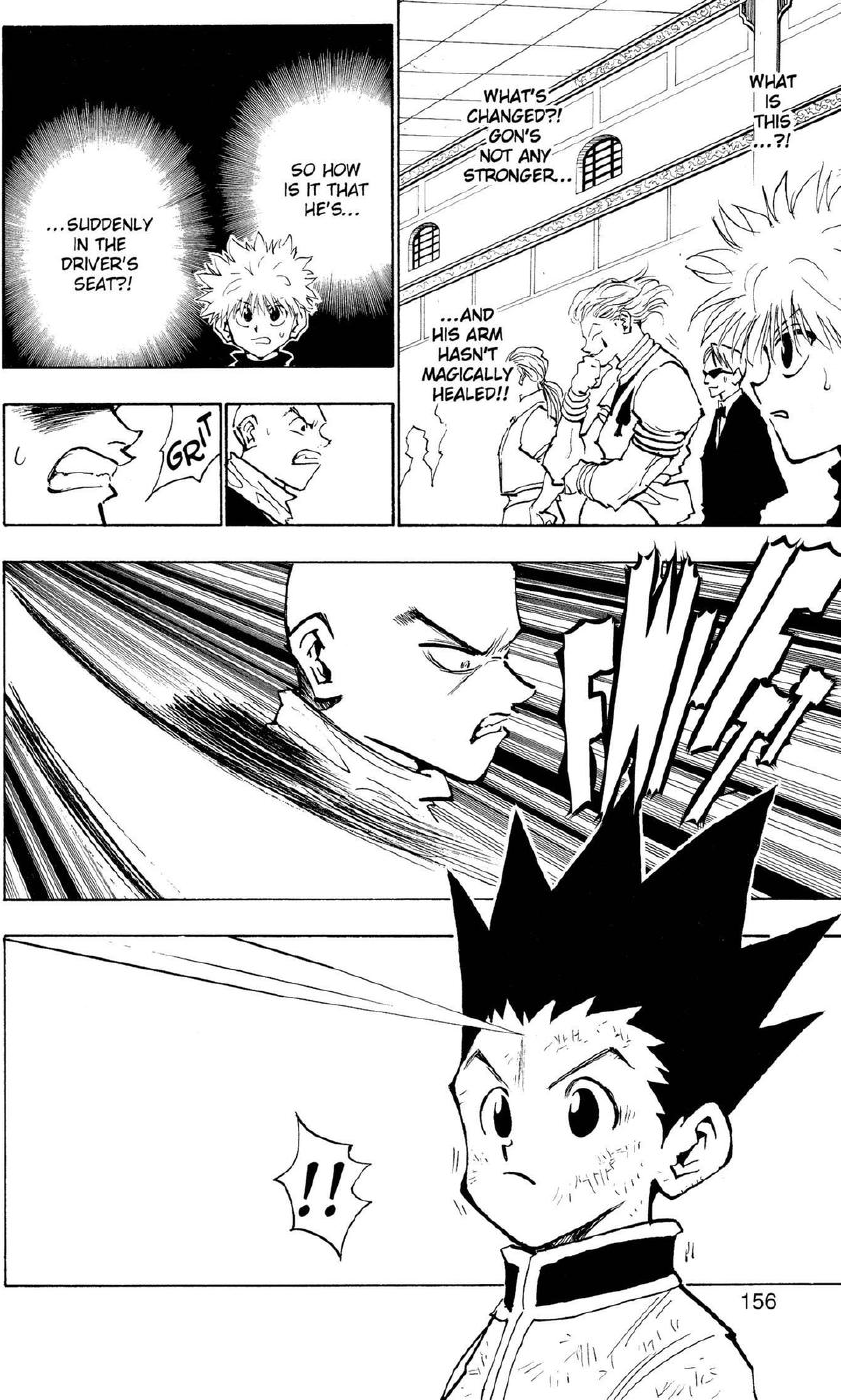

AWRIGHT, GON!! PUT ANOTHER ONE IN! MAKE IT HURT!!
MURDER DA BUM!!
YEAH!
SO HE CAN FAIL?
EIGHTEEN? SO YOU'RE ONLY 6 YEARS OLDER THAN ME!
...
ANYWAY, THIS ISN'T ABOUT STRENGTH OR SKILL...
...BUT ABOUT STICKING TO BUSINESS, NO MATTER WHAT!
Heh ...
FWUP
I LET YOU GET THAT KICK IN...
THROB
THROB
THROB
THROB
WHAT?! LIAR!!
YOU DON'T SEEM TO REALIZE I'M..
SNURF
...NOT ADVISING, I'M ORDERING! THERE IS A DIFFERENCE!
BUT MAYBE I'M NOT...
...MAKING THAT CLEAR ENOUGH.

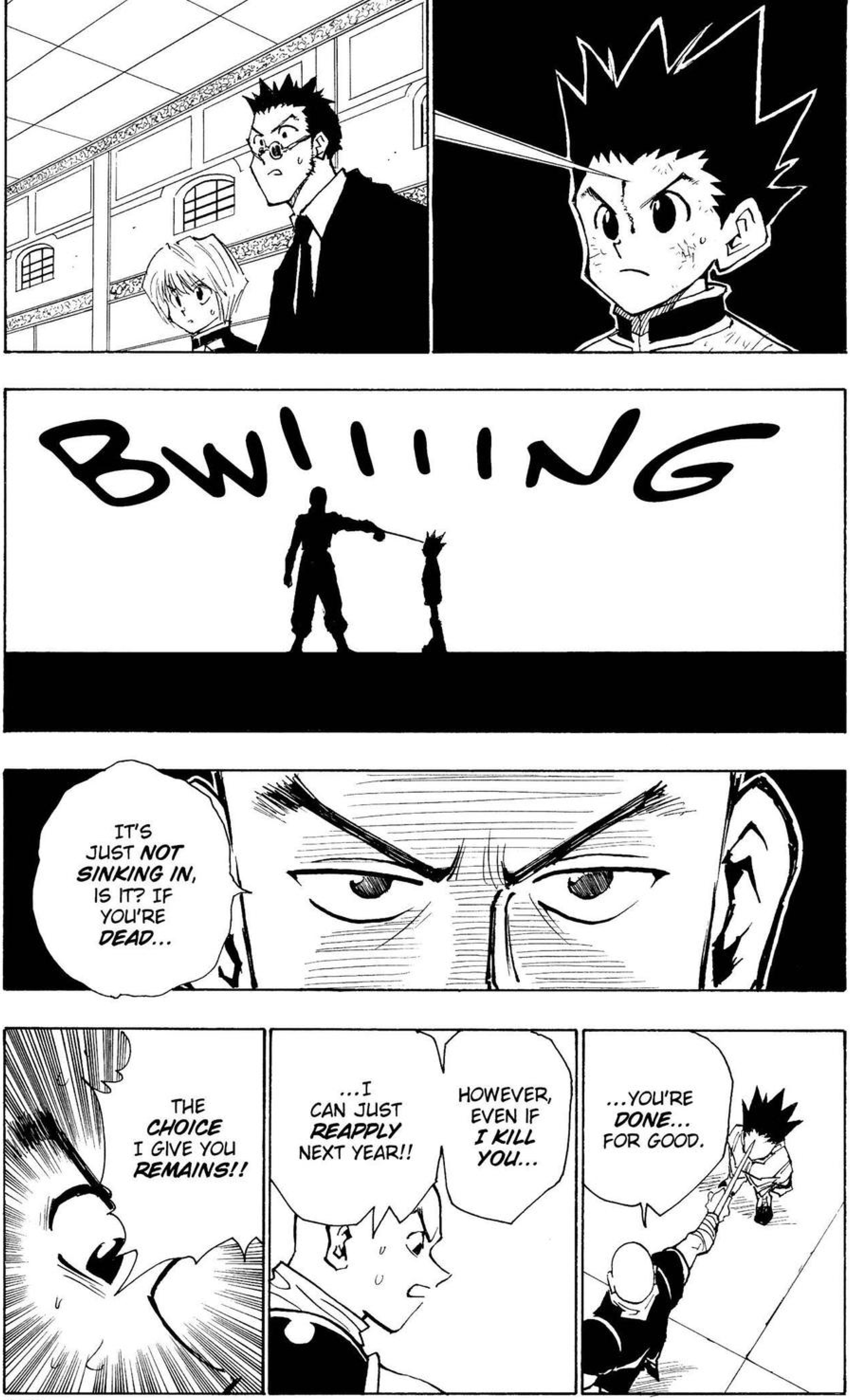
READ THIS WAY

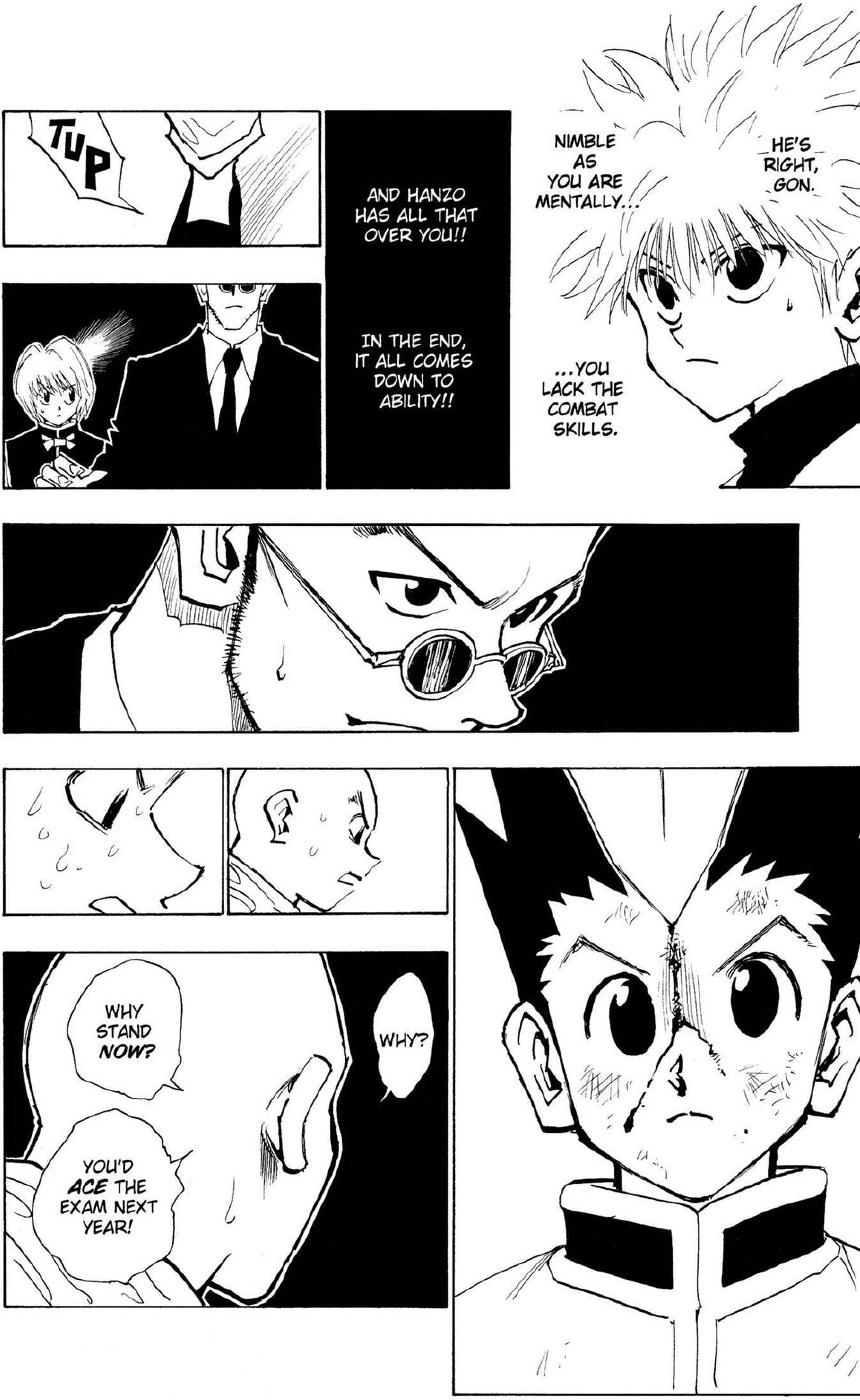

INSTEAD OF A BREAK, I'LL...
... *AMPUTATE!* LET'S SEE...
ZWIP
...A *LEG* SHOULD DO IT! IRREPARABLY *MAIMED*, YOU MAY FINALLY...
...*GET MY POINT!* SO GIVE UP...
...BEFORE I ACTUALLY *MAKE IT!*
FWISH
FWISH
THAT'S A PROBLEM!

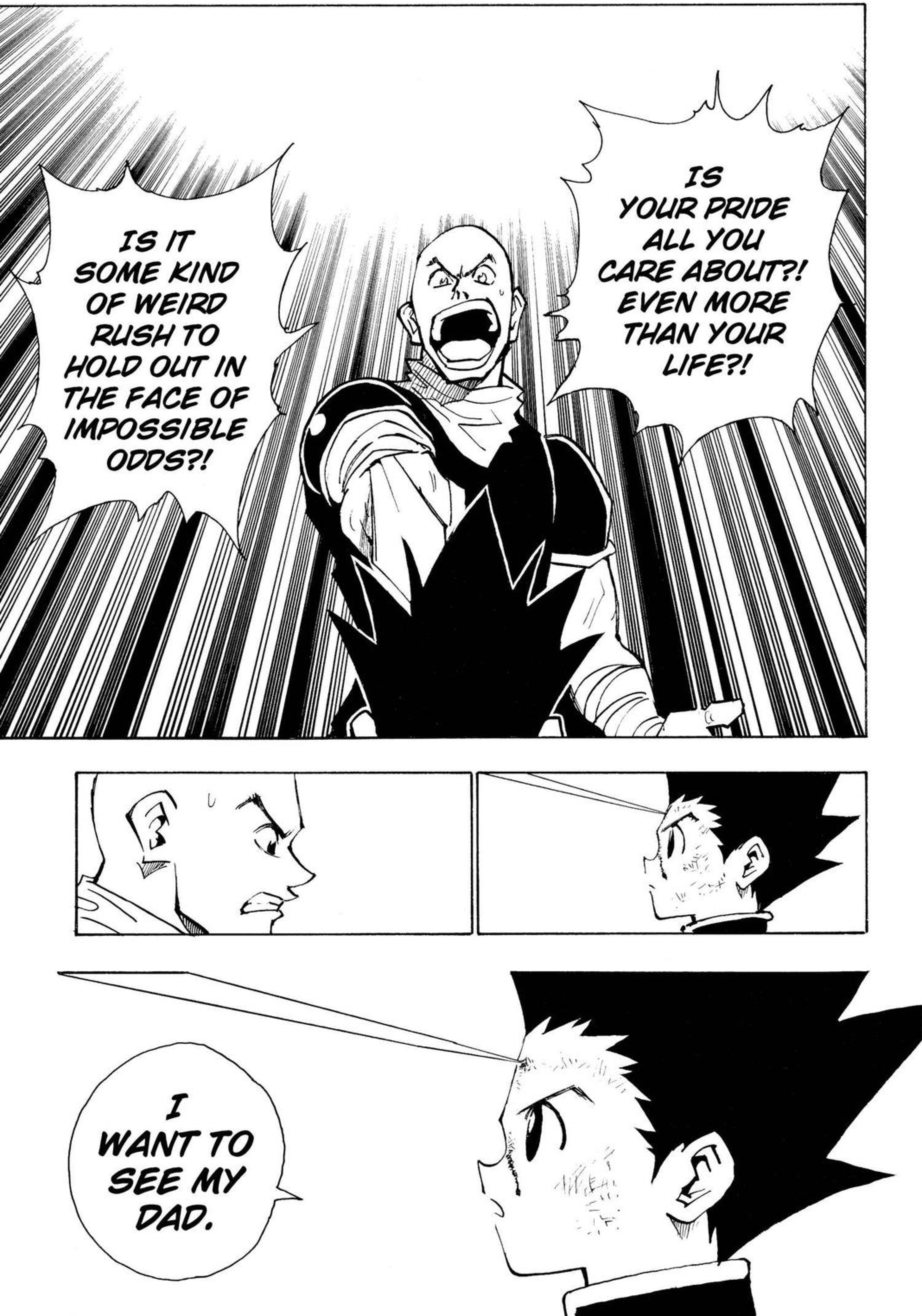

BWOOOONG!!
OF COURSE I DON'T WANT TO LOSE MY LEG!!
BUT I'M AS DETERMINED NOT TO GIVE UP!!
WE GOTTA FIND ANOTHER WAY!
ANOTHER ...?!
YOU'RE IN NO POSITION TO DICTATE TERMS!!
HEH...
HEH HEH
HEH... SORRY.
IT'S A FLAT CHOICE— GIVE UP...
...OR I SLICE OFF YOUR LEG! THAT'S IT!!
I DON'T ACCEPT THAT CHOICE!

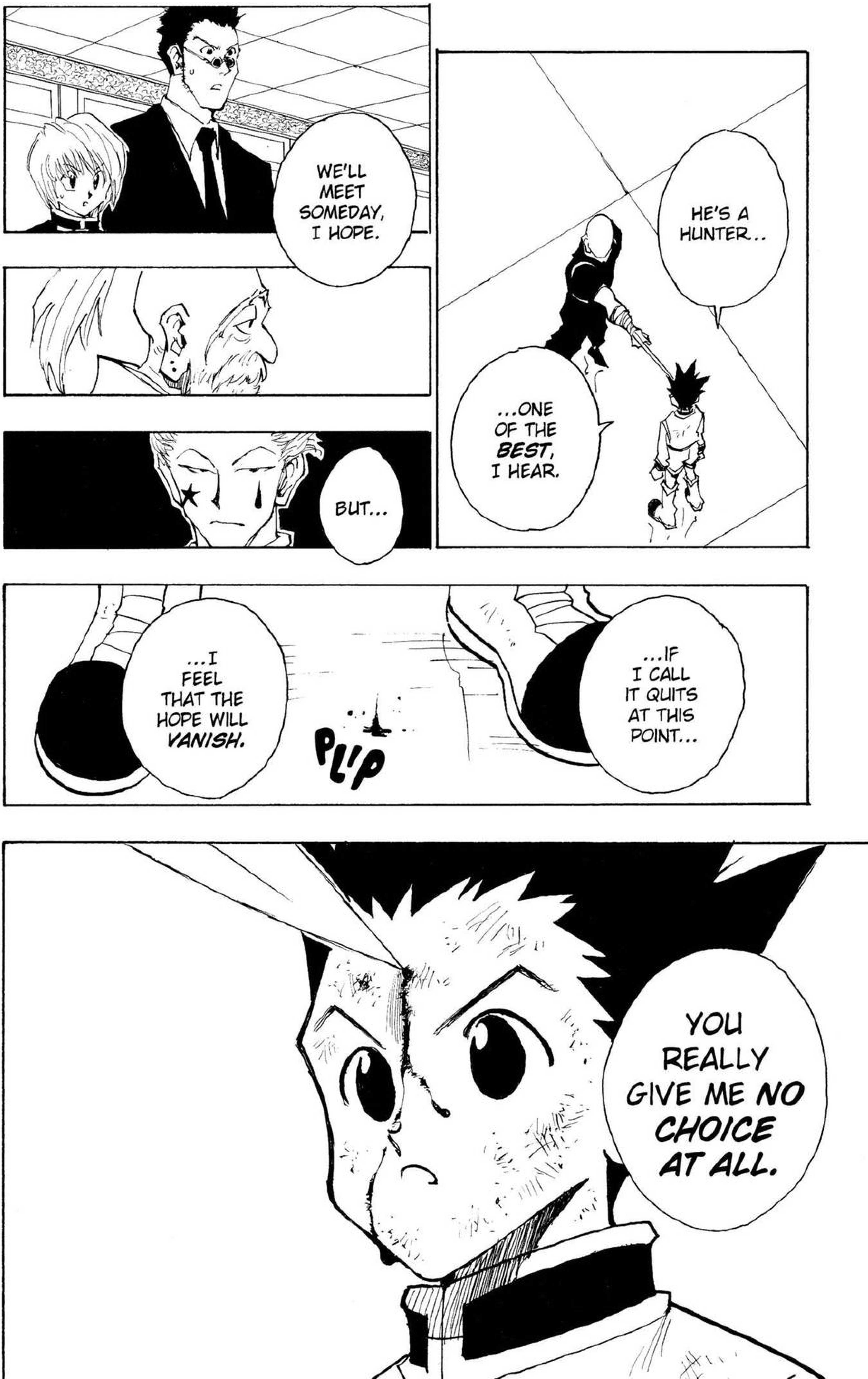

AND YOU SHOULDN'T *OFFER* IT!
EH...?
I BLEED TO DEATH, *HE* FAILS, RIGHT?
UM...
...YES!
SEE?
THAT'S A PROBLEM...
...FOR *BOTH* OF US.
...
...
HOW INTERESTING.
GON HAS TAKEN CONTROL.
His will is...
... breath-taking.
HE'S GOT...
... *EVERYONE'S* ATTENTION.
HANZO'S, TOO...


WHAT IS THIS ...?!
WHAT'S CHANGED?! GON'S NOT ANY STRONGER...
...AND HIS ARM HASN'T MAGICALLY HEALED!!
SO HOW IS IT THAT HE'S...
...SUDDENLY IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT?!
GRIT
!!

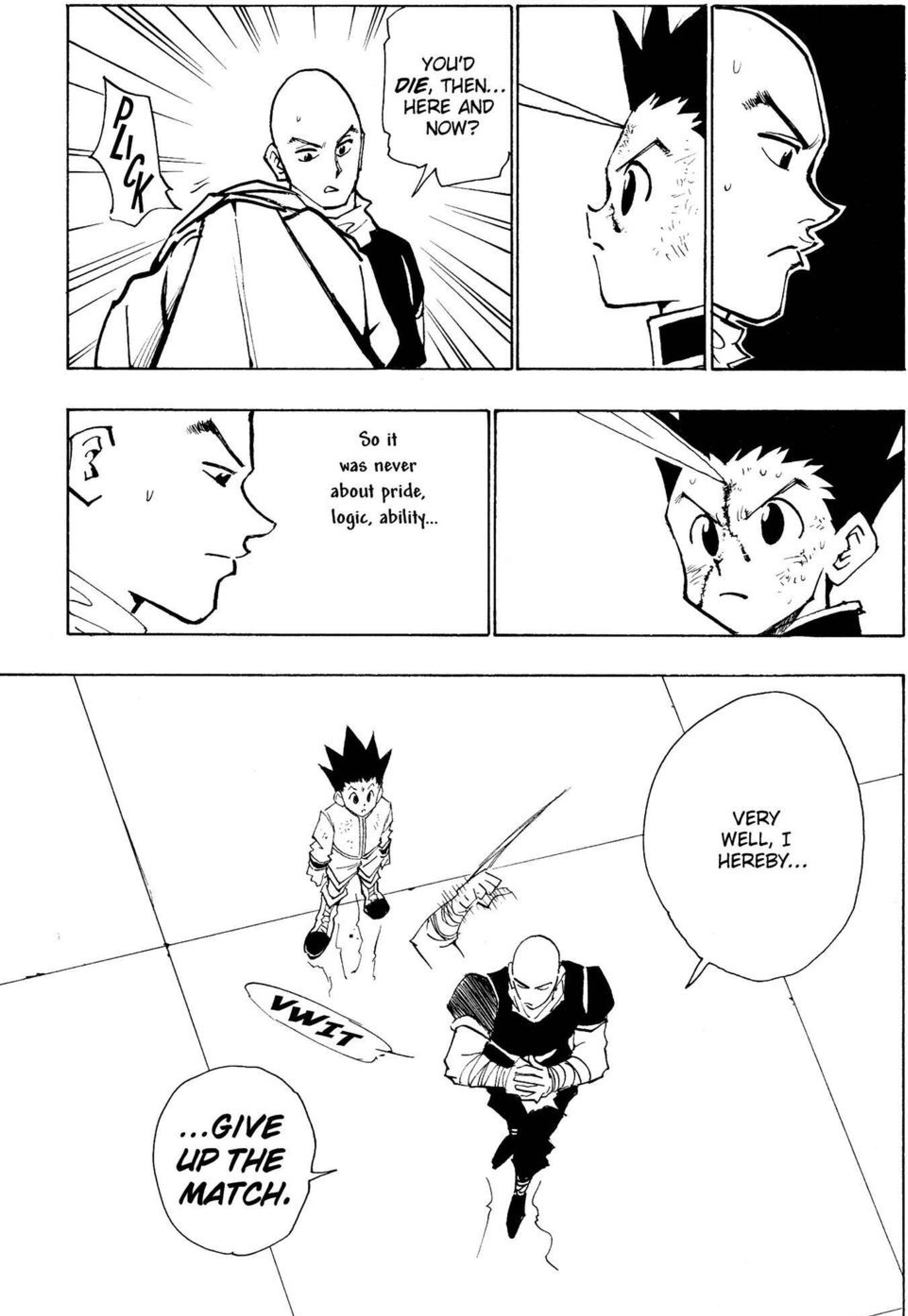

BWIIIING
IT'S JUST **NOT SINKING IN,** IS IT? IF YOU'RE **DEAD...**
THE **CHOICE** I GIVE YOU **REMAINS!!**
...I CAN JUST **REAPPLY** NEXT YEAR!!
HOWEVER, EVEN IF **I KILL YOU...**
...YOU'RE **DONE...** FOR GOOD.

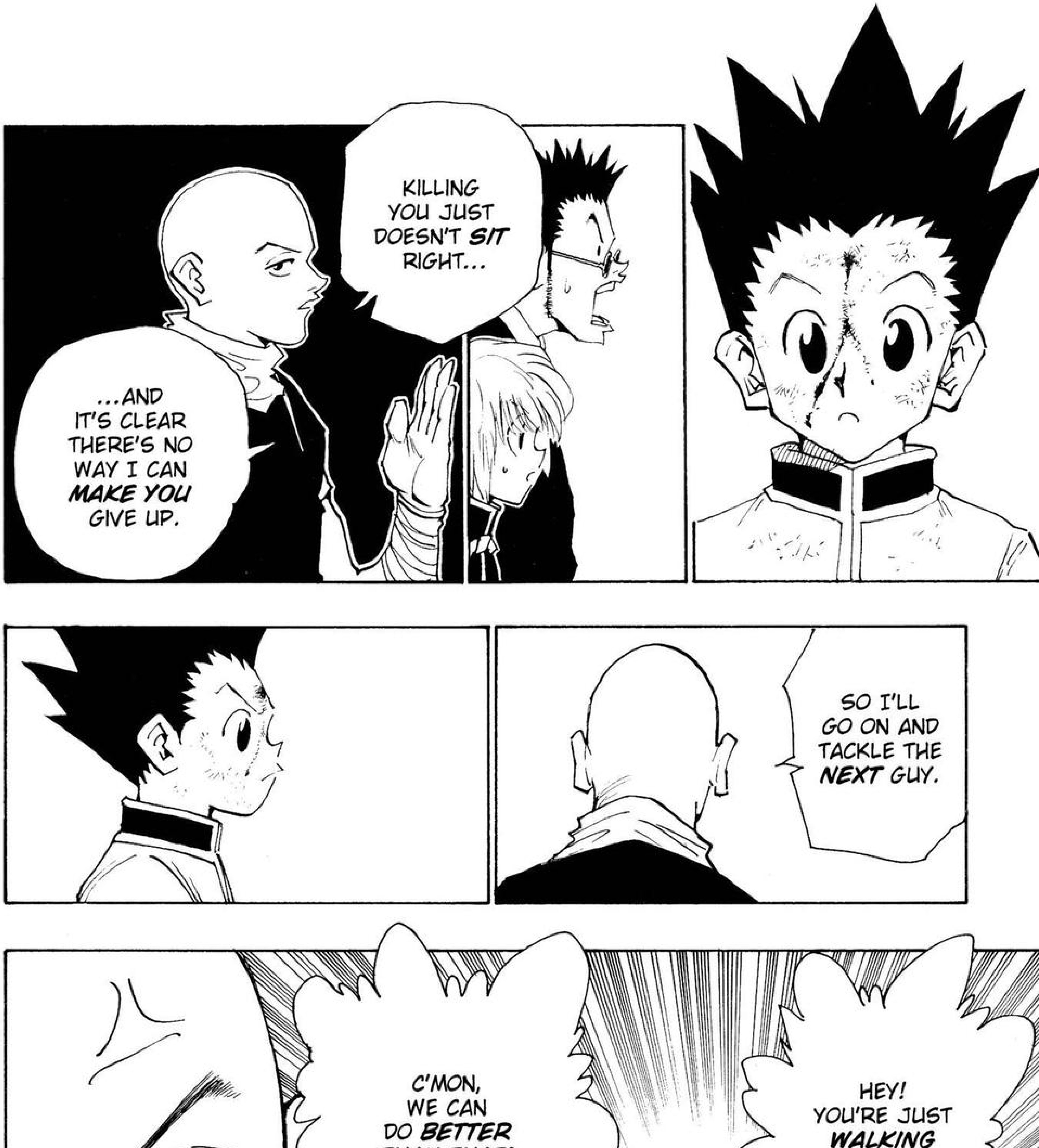

HE'S RIGHT, GON.
NIMBLE AS YOU ARE MENTALLY...
...YOU LACK THE COMBAT SKILLS.
AND HANZO HAS ALL THAT OVER YOU!!
IN THE END, IT ALL COMES DOWN TO ABILITY!!
TUP
WHY?
WHY STAND NOW?
YOU'D ACE THE EXAM NEXT YEAR!

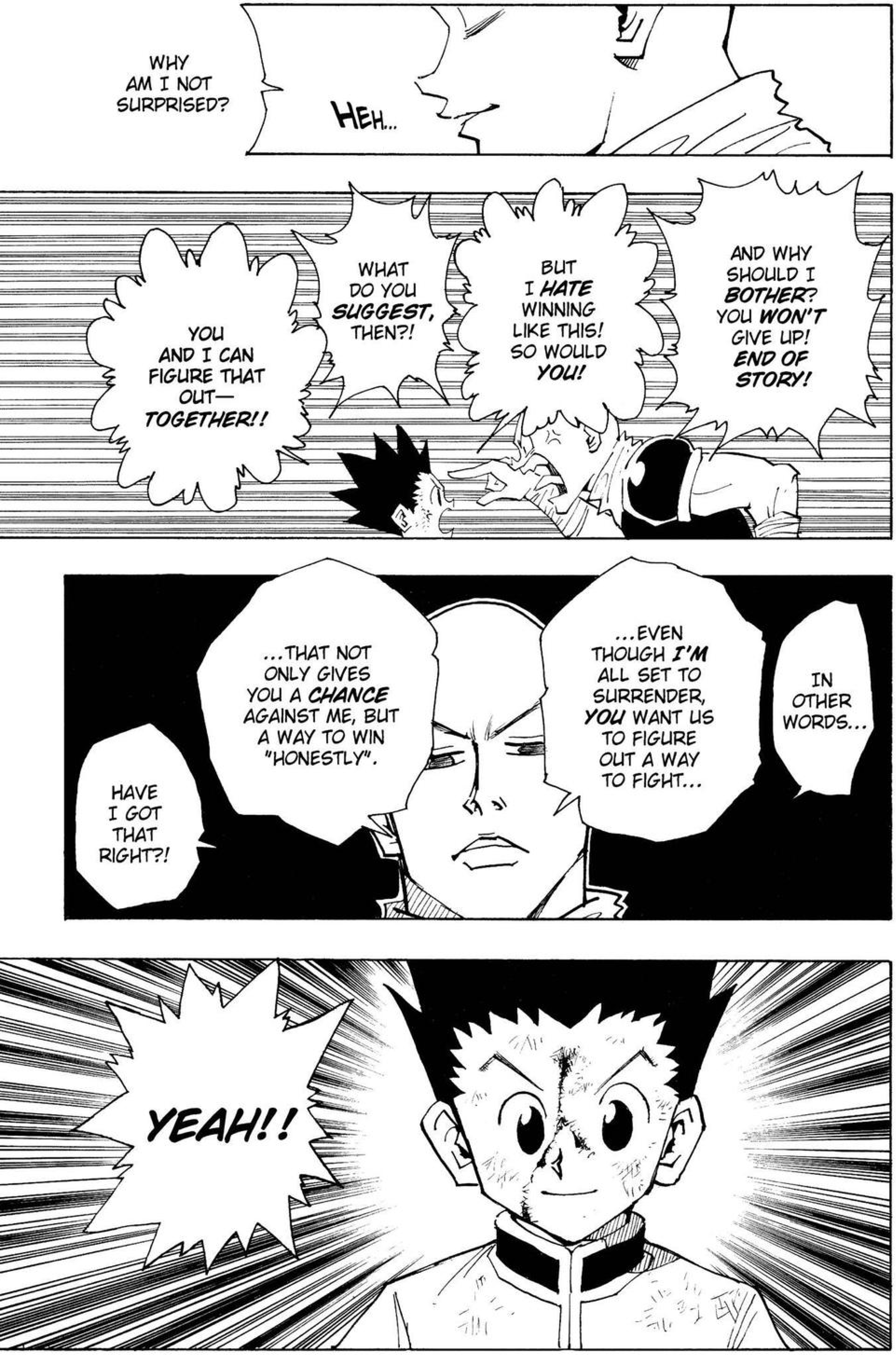

IS YOUR PRIDE ALL YOU CARE ABOUT?! EVEN MORE THAN YOUR LIFE?!
IS IT SOME KIND OF WEIRD RUSH TO HOLD OUT IN THE FACE OF IMPOSSIBLE ODDS?!
I WANT TO SEE MY DAD.

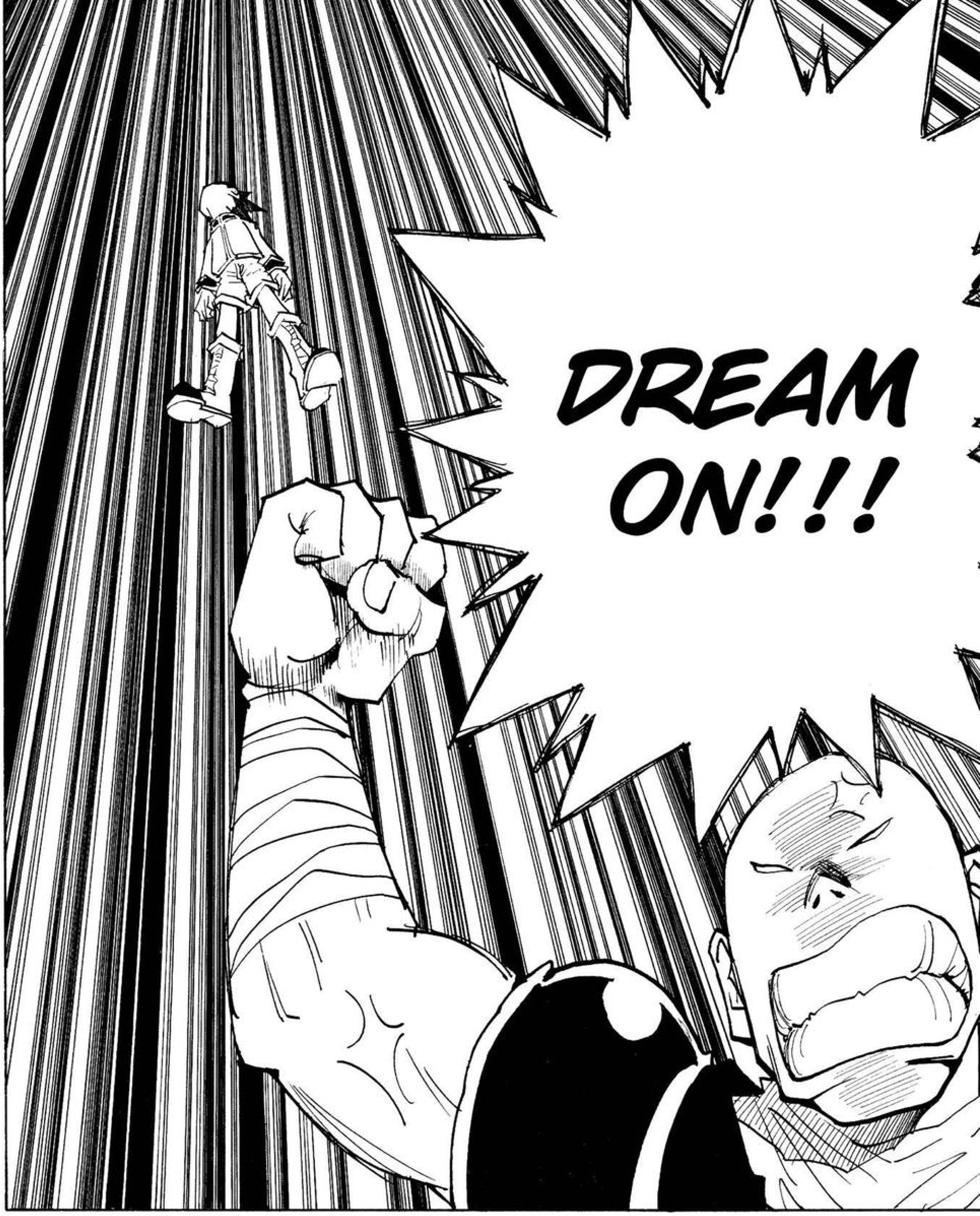

HE'S A HUNTER...
...ONE OF THE *BEST*, I HEAR.
WE'LL MEET SOMEDAY, I HOPE.
BUT...
...IF I CALL IT QUITS AT THIS POINT...
...I FEEL THAT THE HOPE WILL *VANISH*.
PLIP
YOU REALLY GIVE ME *NO CHOICE AT ALL*.

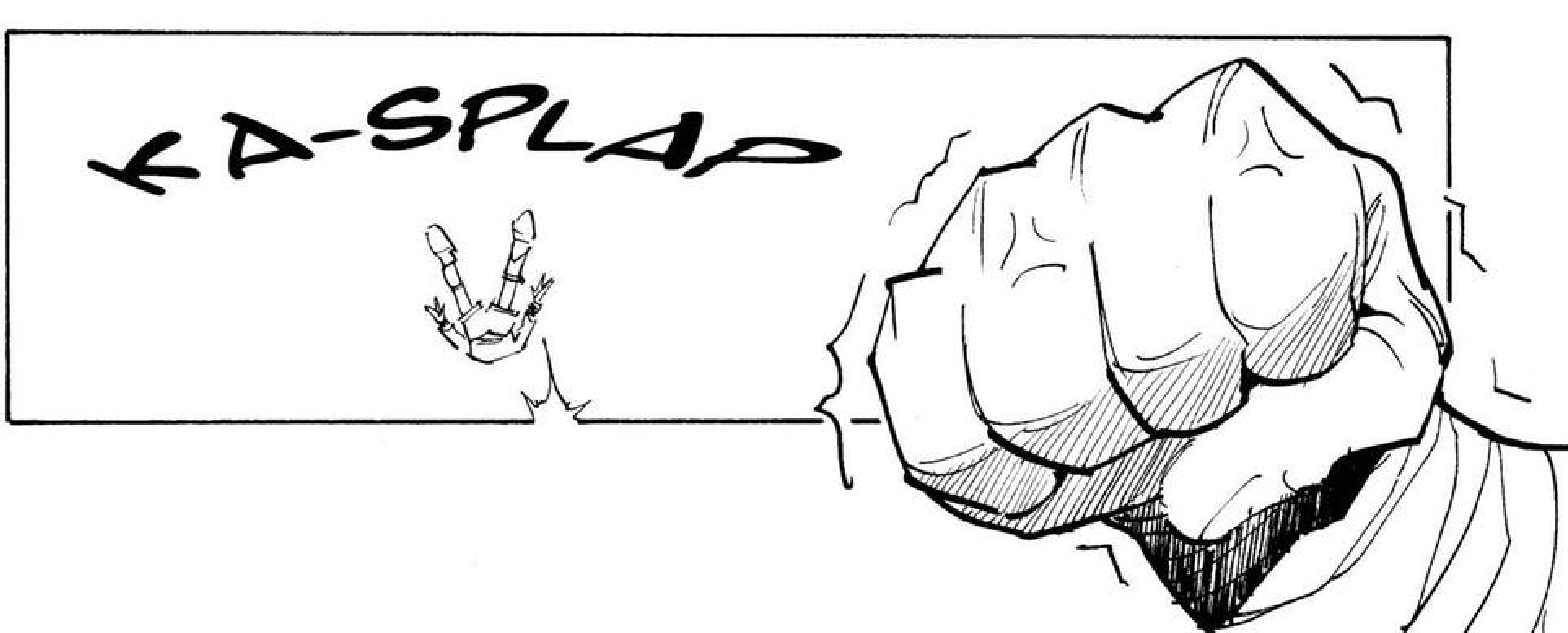
READ THIS WAY


PLICK
YOU'D *DIE*, THEN... HERE AND NOW?
So it was never about pride, logic, ability...
VERY WELL, I HEREBY...
VWIT
...GIVE UP THE MATCH.

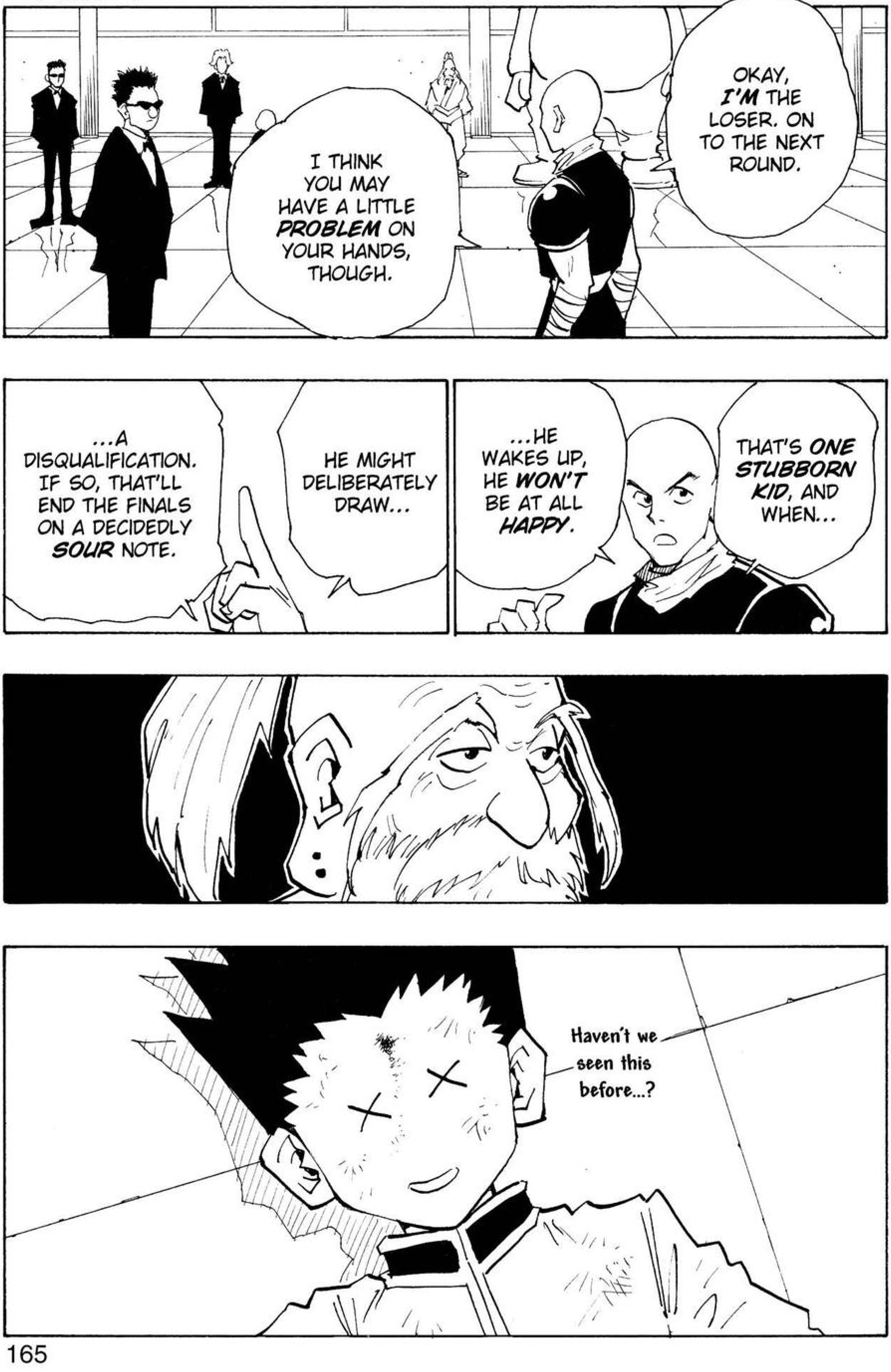

KILLING YOU JUST DOESN'T *SIT* RIGHT…
…AND IT'S CLEAR THERE'S NO WAY I CAN *MAKE YOU* GIVE UP.
SO I'LL GO ON AND TACKLE THE *NEXT* GUY.
HEY! YOU'RE JUST *WALKING AWAY?!*
C'MON, WE CAN DO *BETTER THAN THAT!* WE CAN HAVE A *PROPER* MATCH!
SNAP


HEH...
WHY AM I NOT SURPRISED?
AND WHY SHOULD I BOTHER? YOU WON'T GIVE UP! END OF STORY!
BUT I HATE WINNING LIKE THIS! SO WOULD YOU!
WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST, THEN?!
YOU AND I CAN FIGURE THAT OUT—TOGETHER!!
IN OTHER WORDS...
...EVEN THOUGH I'M ALL SET TO SURRENDER, YOU WANT US TO FIGURE OUT A WAY TO FIGHT...
...THAT NOT ONLY GIVES YOU A CHANCE AGAINST ME, BUT A WAY TO WIN "HONESTLY".
HAVE I GOT THAT RIGHT?!
YEAH!!


DREAM ON!!!


KA-SPLAP

READ THIS WAY

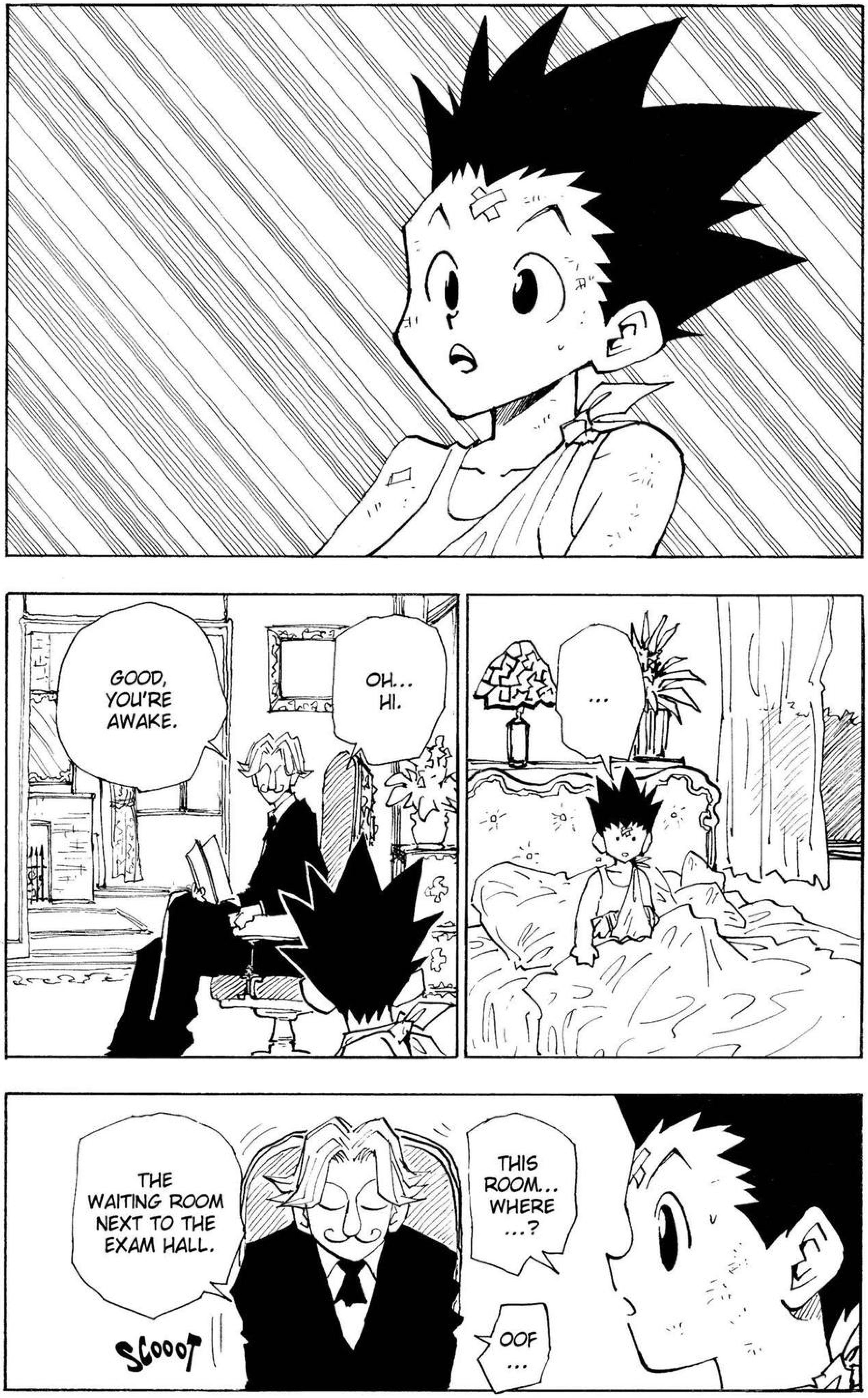

OKAY, I'M THE LOSER. ON TO THE NEXT ROUND.
I THINK YOU MAY HAVE A LITTLE PROBLEM ON YOUR HANDS, THOUGH.
THAT'S ONE STUBBORN KID, AND WHEN...
...HE WAKES UP, HE WON'T BE AT ALL HAPPY.
HE MIGHT DELIBERATELY DRAW...
...A DISQUALIFICATION. IF SO, THAT'LL END THE FINALS ON A DECIDEDLY SOUR NOTE.
Haven't we seen this before...?

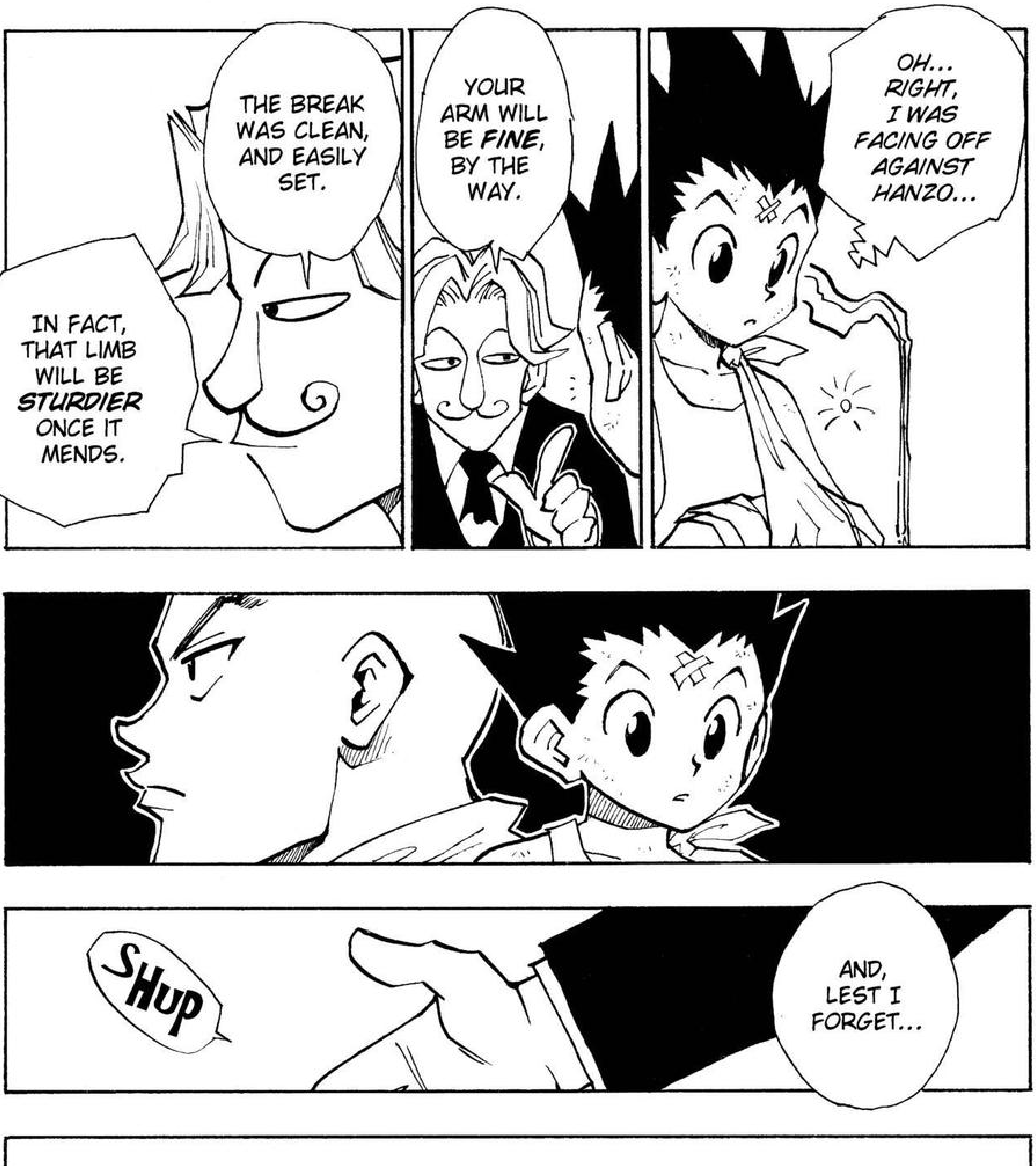
THROB
THROB
THROB
THROB

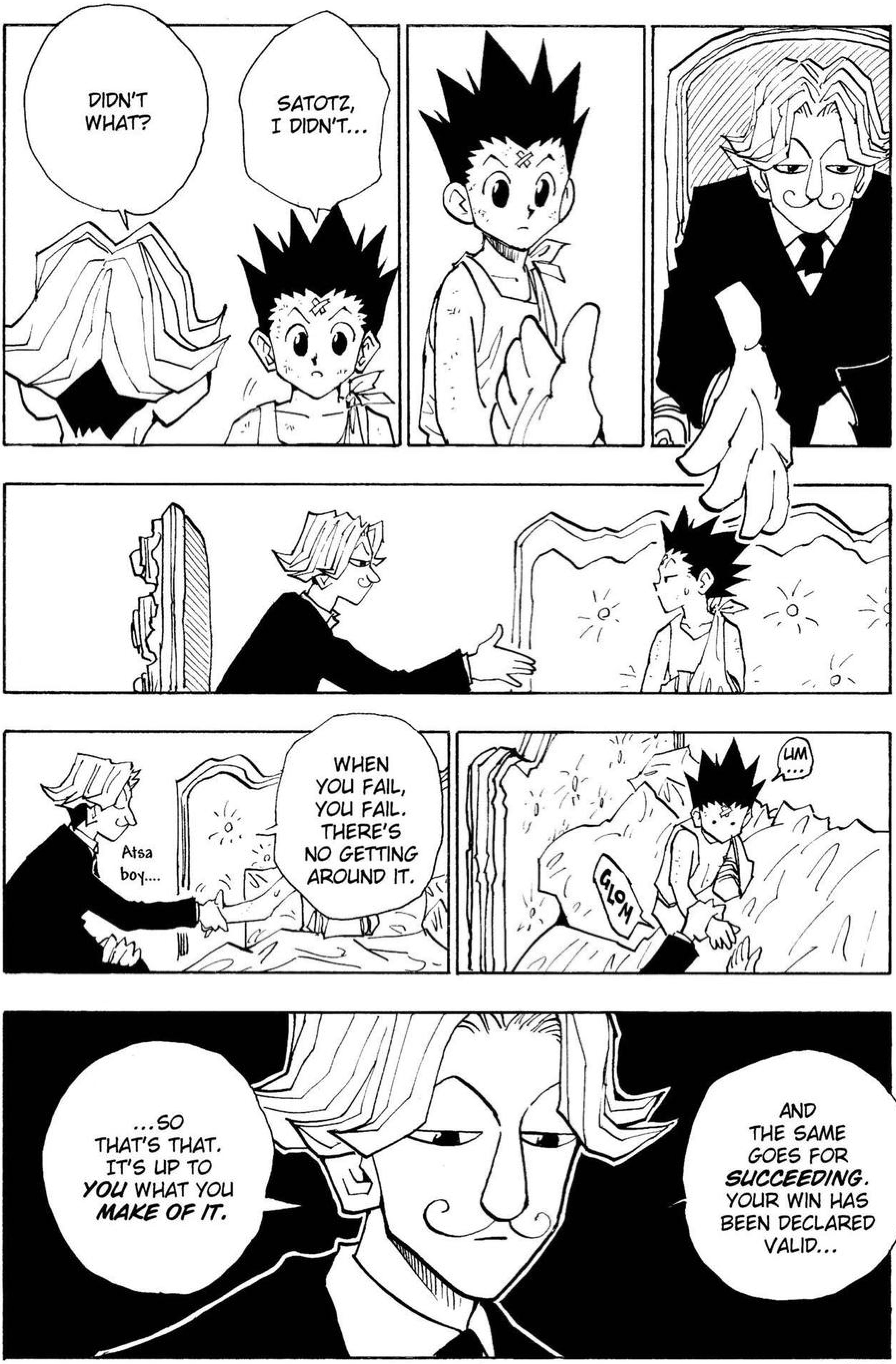
Chapter 35

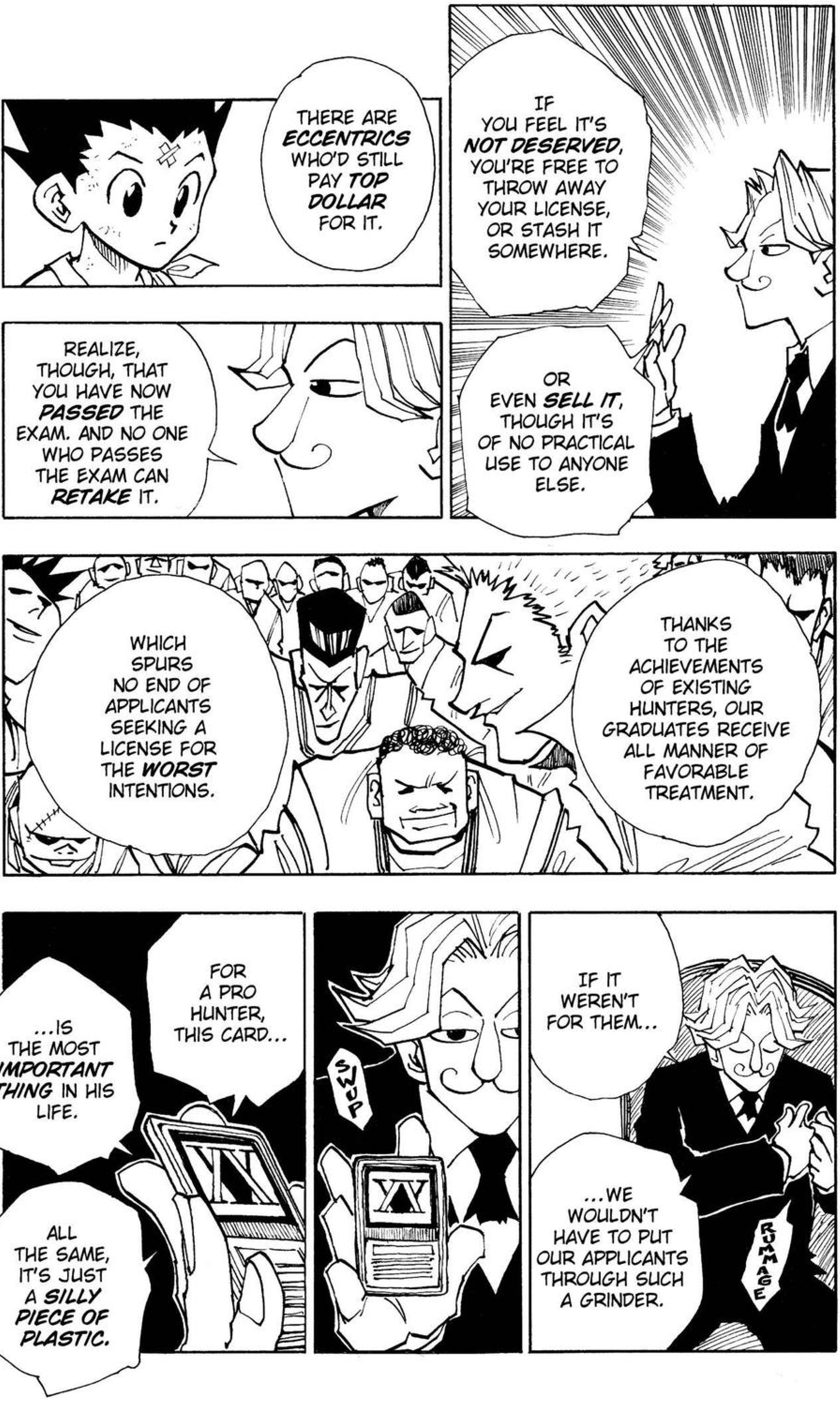
Light and Darkness,

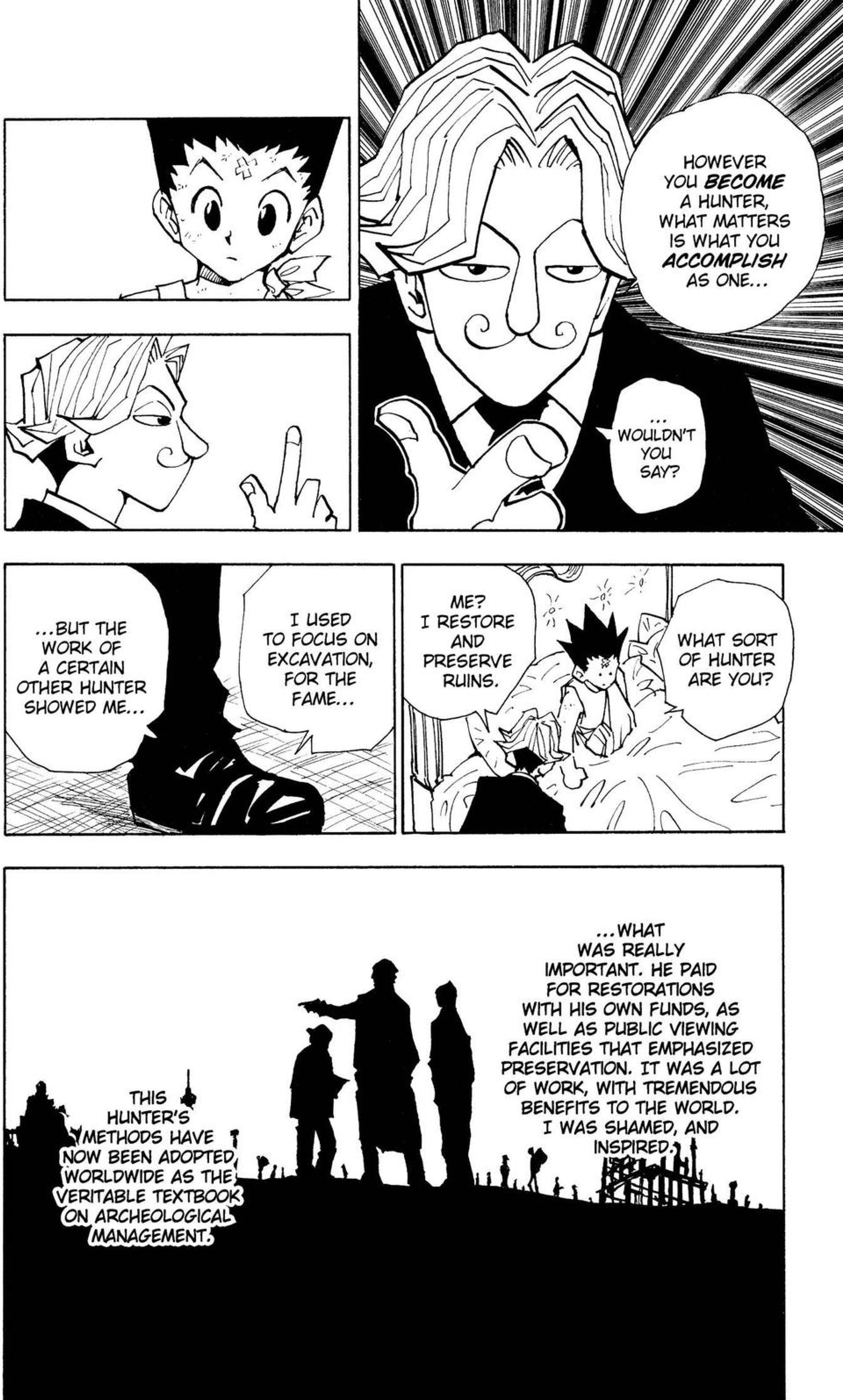
part 1

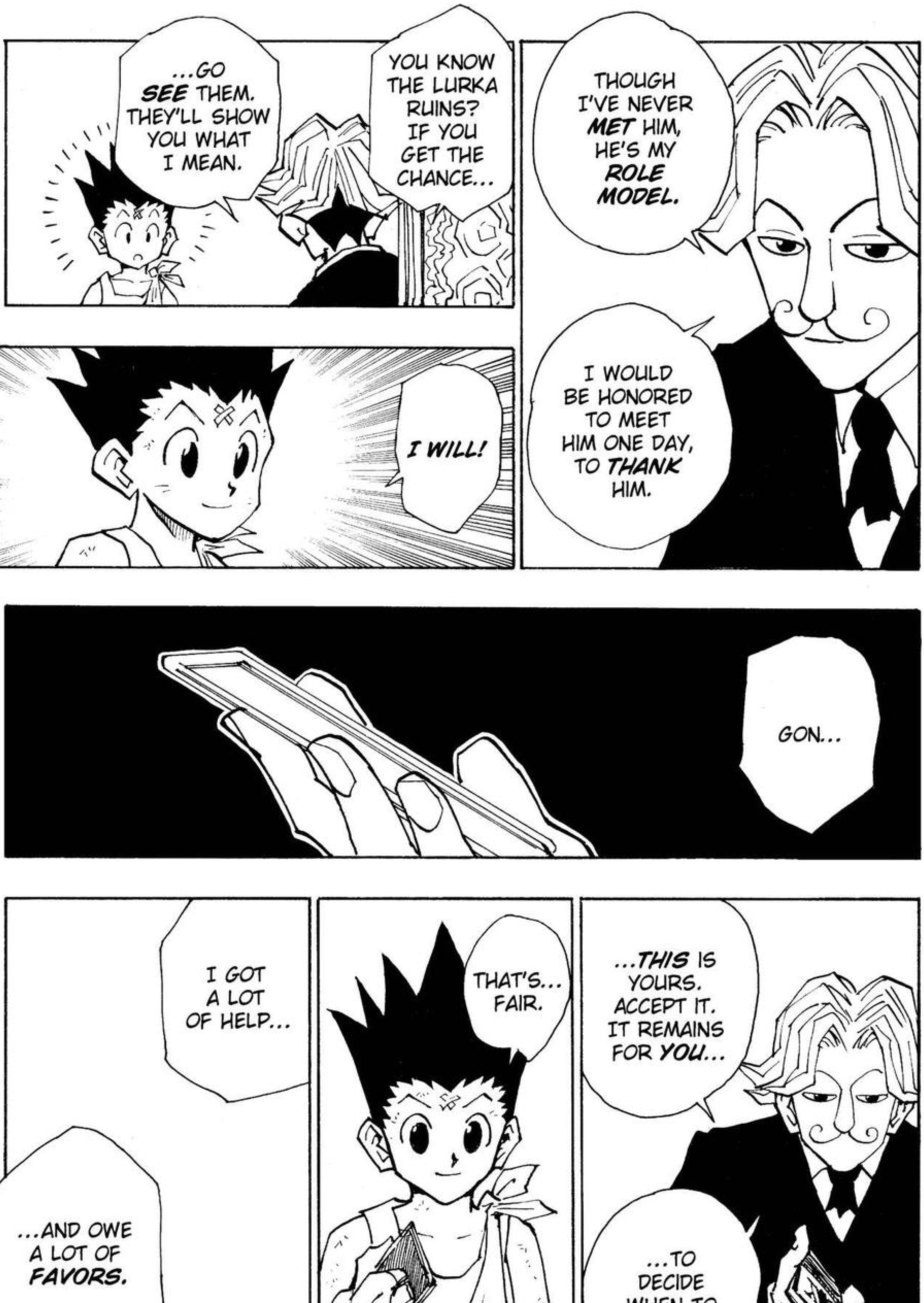

…
OH… HI.
GOOD, YOU'RE AWAKE.
THIS ROOM… WHERE …?
THE WAITING ROOM NEXT TO THE EXAM HALL.
OOF …
SCOOOT

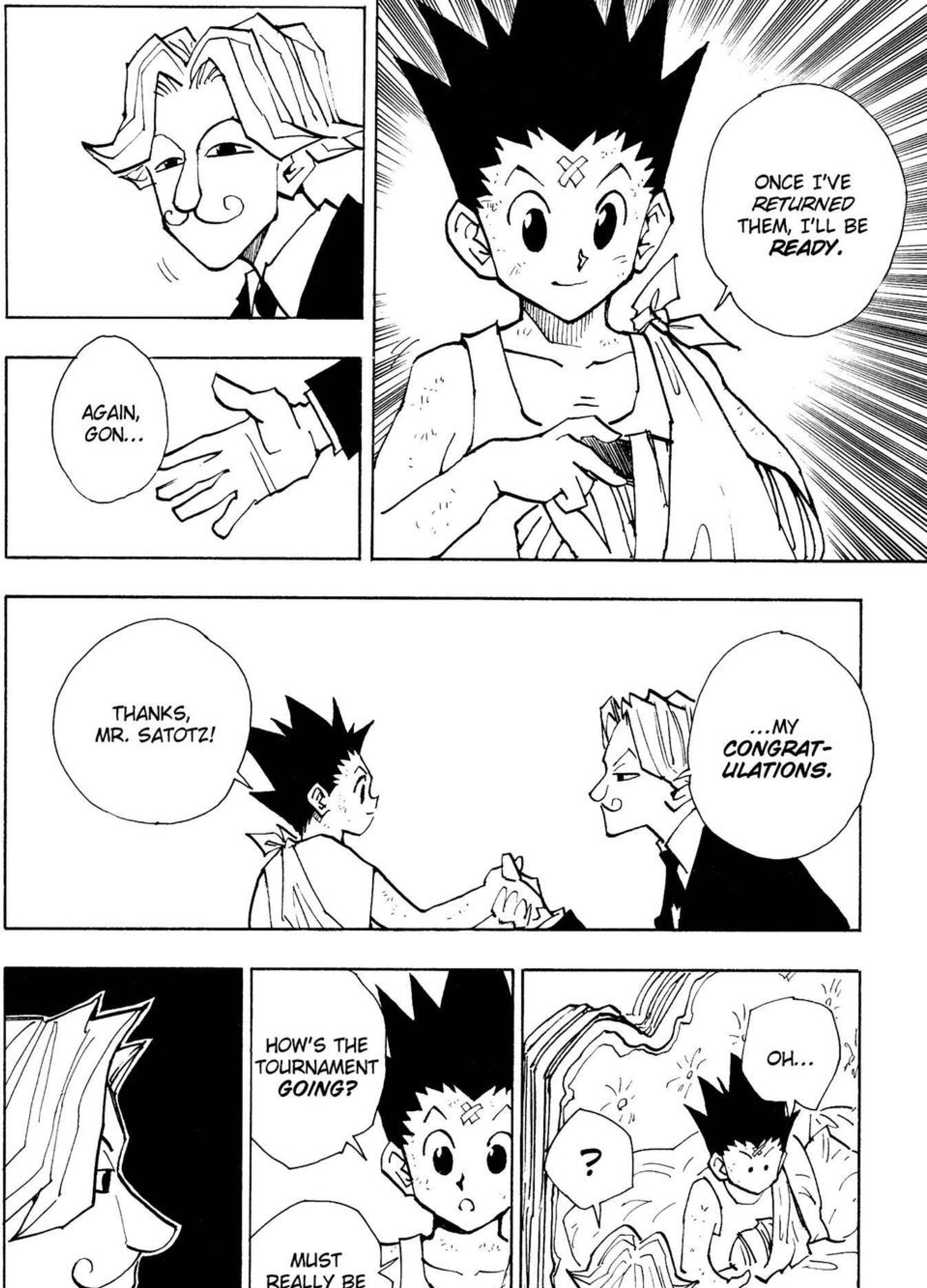

OH... RIGHT, I WAS FACING OFF AGAINST HANZO...
YOUR ARM WILL BE *FINE*, BY THE WAY.
THE BREAK WAS CLEAN, AND EASILY SET.
IN FACT, THAT LIMB WILL BE ***STURDIER*** ONCE IT MENDS.
AND, LEST I FORGET...
SHUP
...*CONGRATULATIONS* ON YOUR WIN.


SATOTZ, I DIDN'T...
DIDN'T WHAT?
UM...
GLOM
WHEN YOU FAIL, YOU FAIL. THERE'S NO GETTING AROUND IT.
Atsa boy....
AND THE SAME GOES FOR SUCCEEDING. YOUR WIN HAS BEEN DECLARED VALID...
...SO THAT'S THAT. IT'S UP TO YOU WHAT YOU MAKE OF IT.

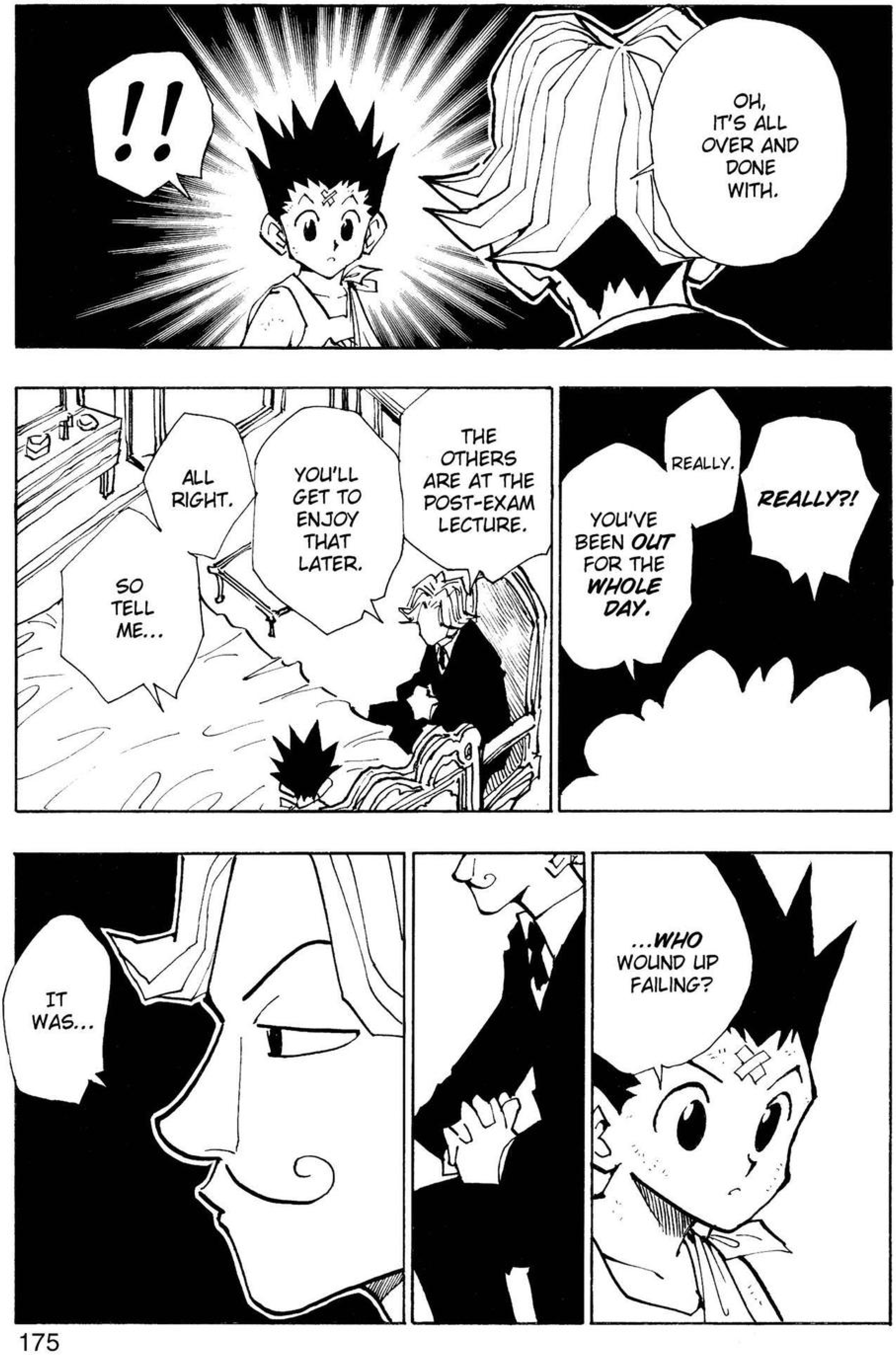

IF YOU FEEL IT'S NOT DESERVED, YOU'RE FREE TO THROW AWAY YOUR LICENSE, OR STASH IT SOMEWHERE.
OR EVEN SELL IT, THOUGH IT'S OF NO PRACTICAL USE TO ANYONE ELSE.
THERE ARE ECCENTRICS WHO'D STILL PAY TOP DOLLAR FOR IT.
REALIZE, THOUGH, THAT YOU HAVE NOW PASSED THE EXAM. AND NO ONE WHO PASSES THE EXAM CAN RETAKE IT.
THANKS TO THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF EXISTING HUNTERS, OUR GRADUATES RECEIVE ALL MANNER OF FAVORABLE TREATMENT.
WHICH SPURS NO END OF APPLICANTS SEEKING A LICENSE FOR THE WORST INTENTIONS.
IF IT WEREN'T FOR THEM...
RUMMAGE
...WE WOULDN'T HAVE TO PUT OUR APPLICANTS THROUGH SUCH A GRINDER.
SWUP
XX
FOR A PRO HUNTER, THIS CARD...
...IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN HIS LIFE.
ALL THE SAME, IT'S JUST A SILLY PIECE OF PLASTIC.

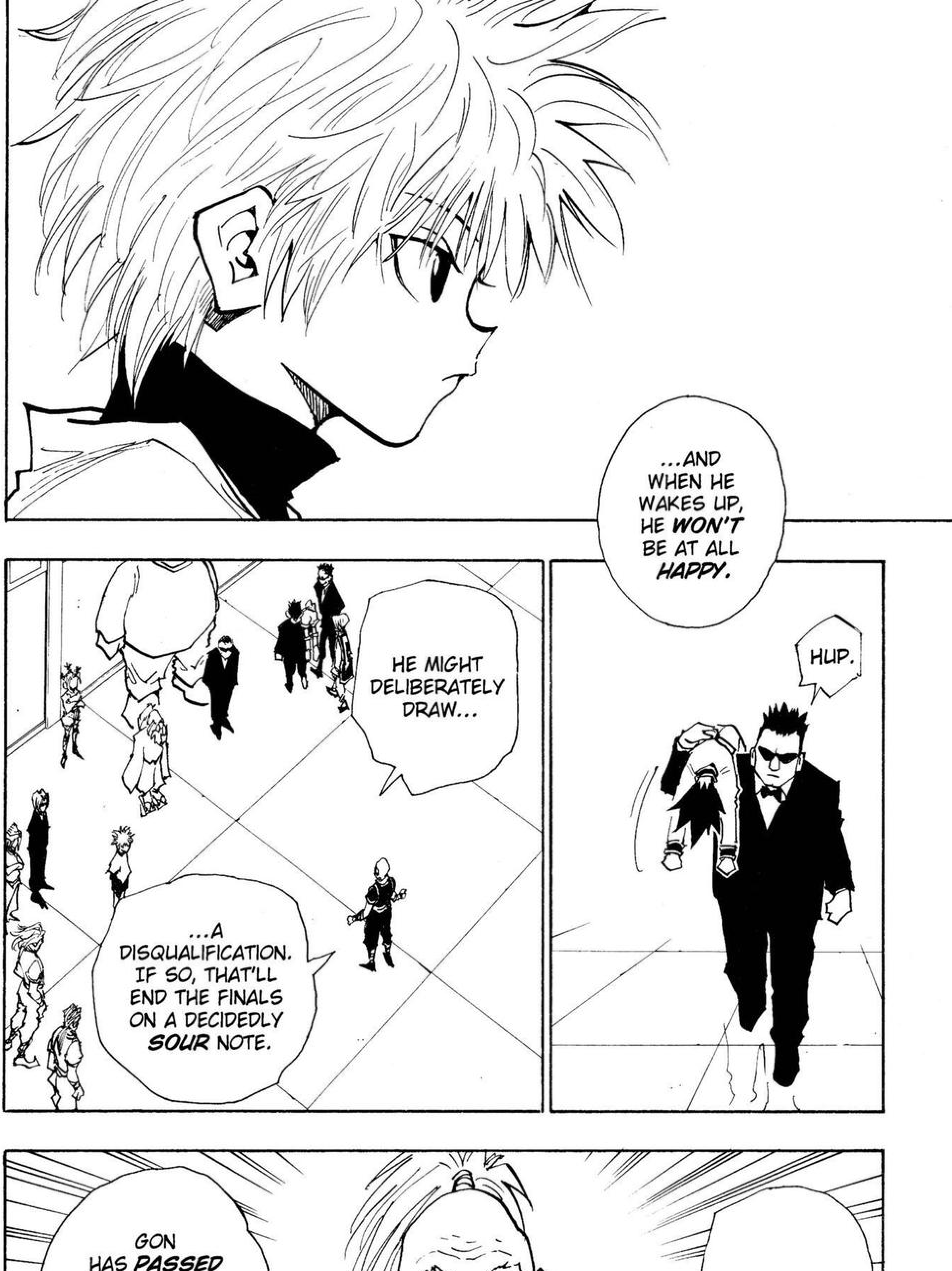

HOWEVER YOU **BECOME** A HUNTER, WHAT MATTERS IS WHAT YOU **ACCOMPLISH** AS ONE…
…WOULDN'T YOU SAY?
WHAT SORT OF HUNTER ARE YOU?
ME? I RESTORE AND PRESERVE RUINS.
I USED TO FOCUS ON EXCAVATION, FOR THE FAME…
…BUT THE WORK OF A CERTAIN OTHER HUNTER SHOWED ME…
…WHAT WAS REALLY IMPORTANT. HE PAID FOR RESTORATIONS WITH HIS OWN FUNDS, AS WELL AS PUBLIC VIEWING FACILITIES THAT EMPHASIZED PRESERVATION. IT WAS A LOT OF WORK, WITH TREMENDOUS BENEFITS TO THE WORLD. I WAS SHAMED, AND INSPIRED.
THIS HUNTER'S METHODS HAVE NOW BEEN ADOPTED WORLDWIDE AS THE VERITABLE TEXTBOOK ON ARCHEOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT.

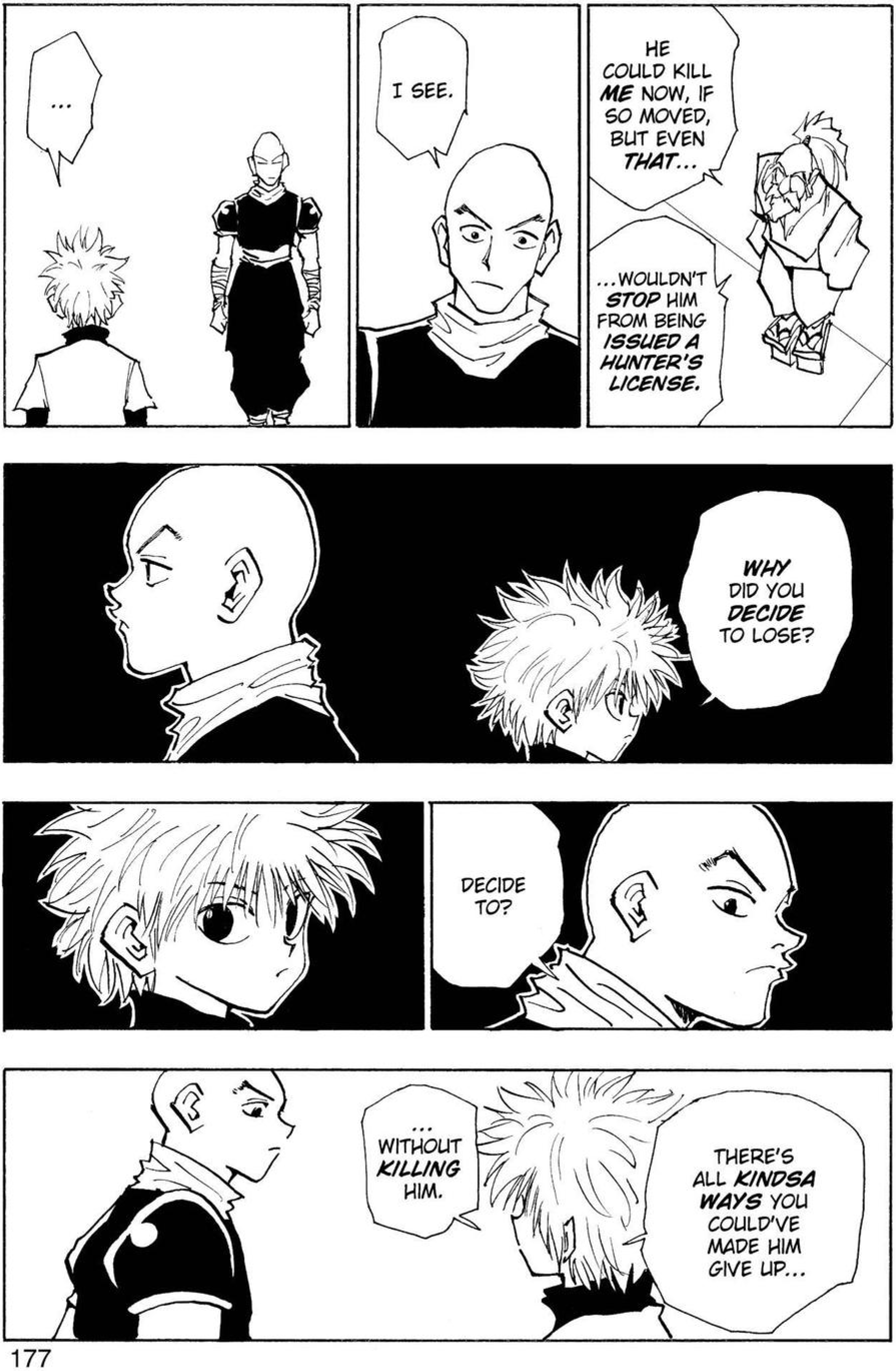

THOUGH I'VE NEVER **MET** HIM, HE'S MY **ROLE MODEL.**
I WOULD BE HONORED TO MEET HIM ONE DAY, TO **THANK** HIM.
YOU KNOW THE LURKA RUINS? IF YOU GET THE CHANCE...
...GO **SEE** THEM. THEY'LL SHOW YOU WHAT I MEAN.
I WILL!
GON...
...***THIS*** IS YOURS. ACCEPT IT. IT REMAINS FOR ***YOU...***
...TO DECIDE WHEN TO ***USE*** IT.
THAT'S... FAIR.
I GOT A LOT OF HELP...
...AND OWE A LOT OF ***FAVORS.***

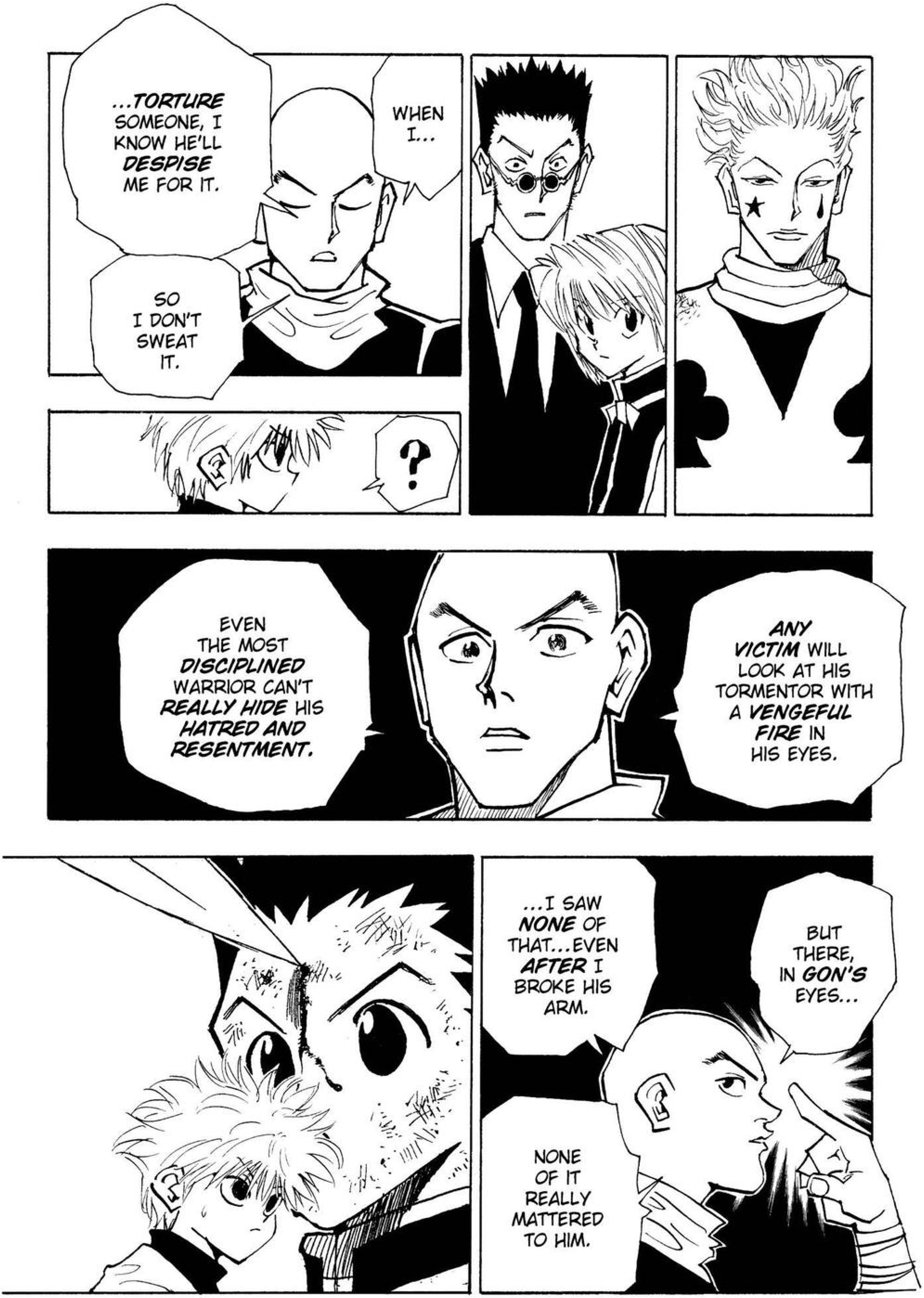

ONCE I'VE *RETURNED* THEM, I'LL BE **READY.**
AGAIN, GON...
...MY **CONGRATULATIONS.**
THANKS, MR. SATOTZ!
OH...
?
HOW'S THE TOURNAMENT ***GOING?***
MUST REALLY BE ***HEATING UP*** BY NOW!

READ THIS WAY

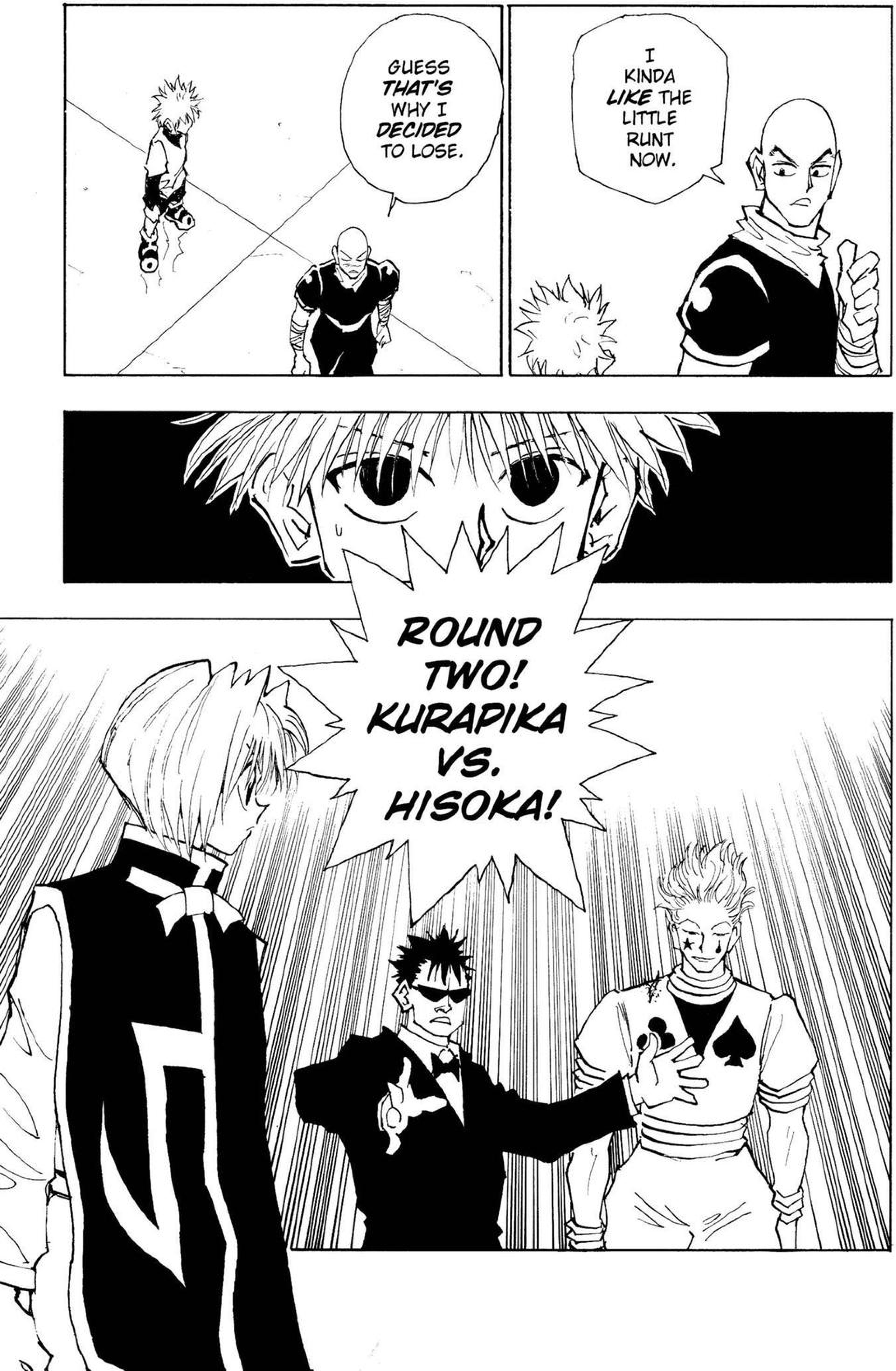

OH, IT'S ALL OVER AND DONE WITH.
!!
REALLY?!
REALLY.
YOU'VE BEEN *OUT* FOR THE *WHOLE DAY*.
THE OTHERS ARE AT THE POST-EXAM LECTURE.
YOU'LL GET TO ENJOY THAT LATER.
ALL RIGHT.
SO TELL ME...
...*WHO* WOUND UP FAILING?
IT WAS...

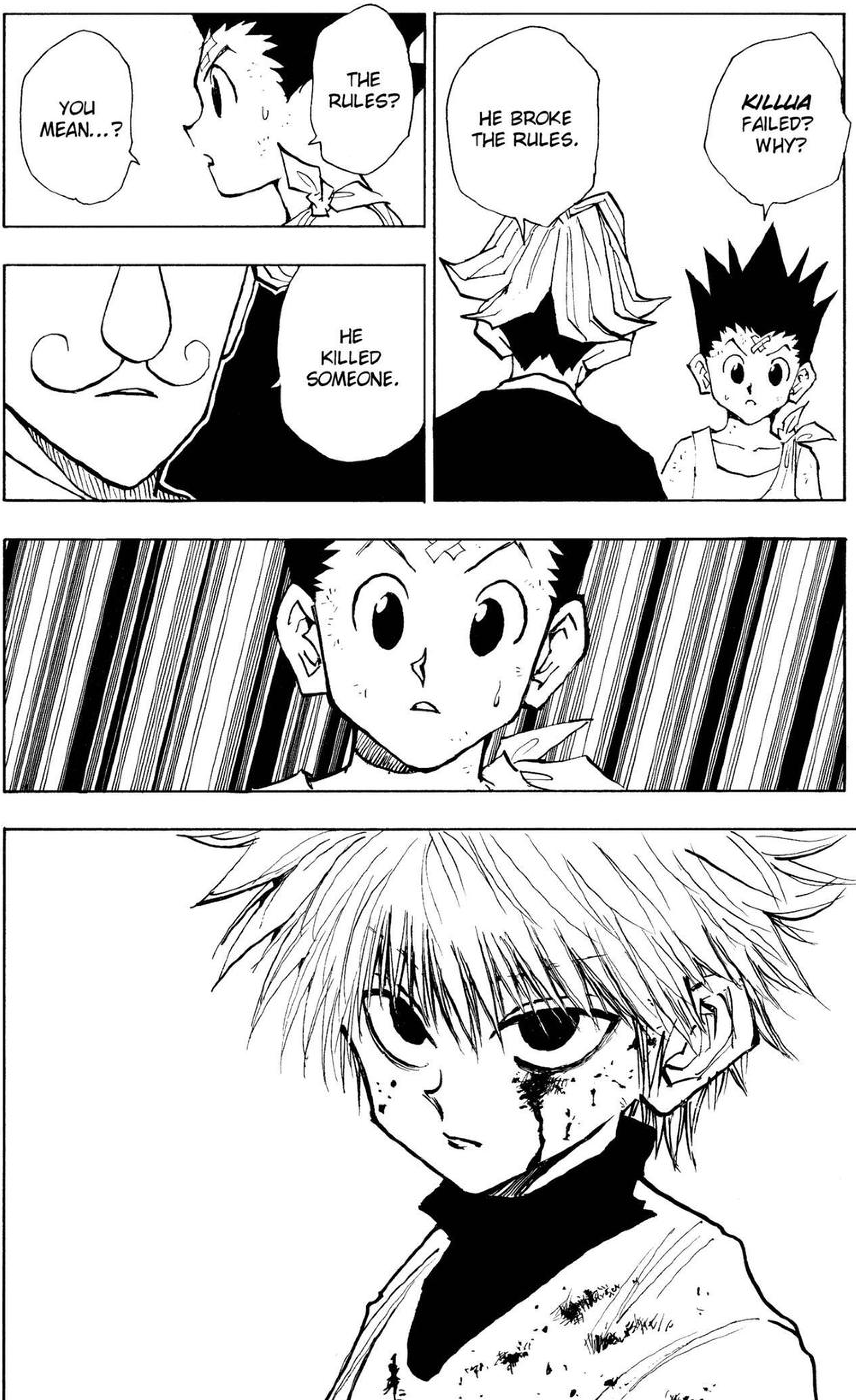

...AND WHEN HE WAKES UP, HE **WON'T** BE AT ALL **HAPPY.**
HUP.
HE MIGHT DELIBERATELY DRAW...
...A DISQUALIFICATION. IF SO, THAT'LL END THE FINALS ON A DECIDEDLY **SOUR** NOTE.
NOT A PROBLEM.
GON HAS **PASSED** THE EXAM, AND IS **NO LONGER A CONTENDER** IN THE FINALS.


HE COULD KILL ME NOW, IF SO MOVED, BUT EVEN THAT...
...WOULDN'T STOP HIM FROM BEING ISSUED A HUNTER'S LICENSE.
I SEE.
...
WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO LOSE?
DECIDE TO?
THERE'S ALL KINDSA WAYS YOU COULD'VE MADE HIM GIVE UP...
...WITHOUT KILLING HIM.

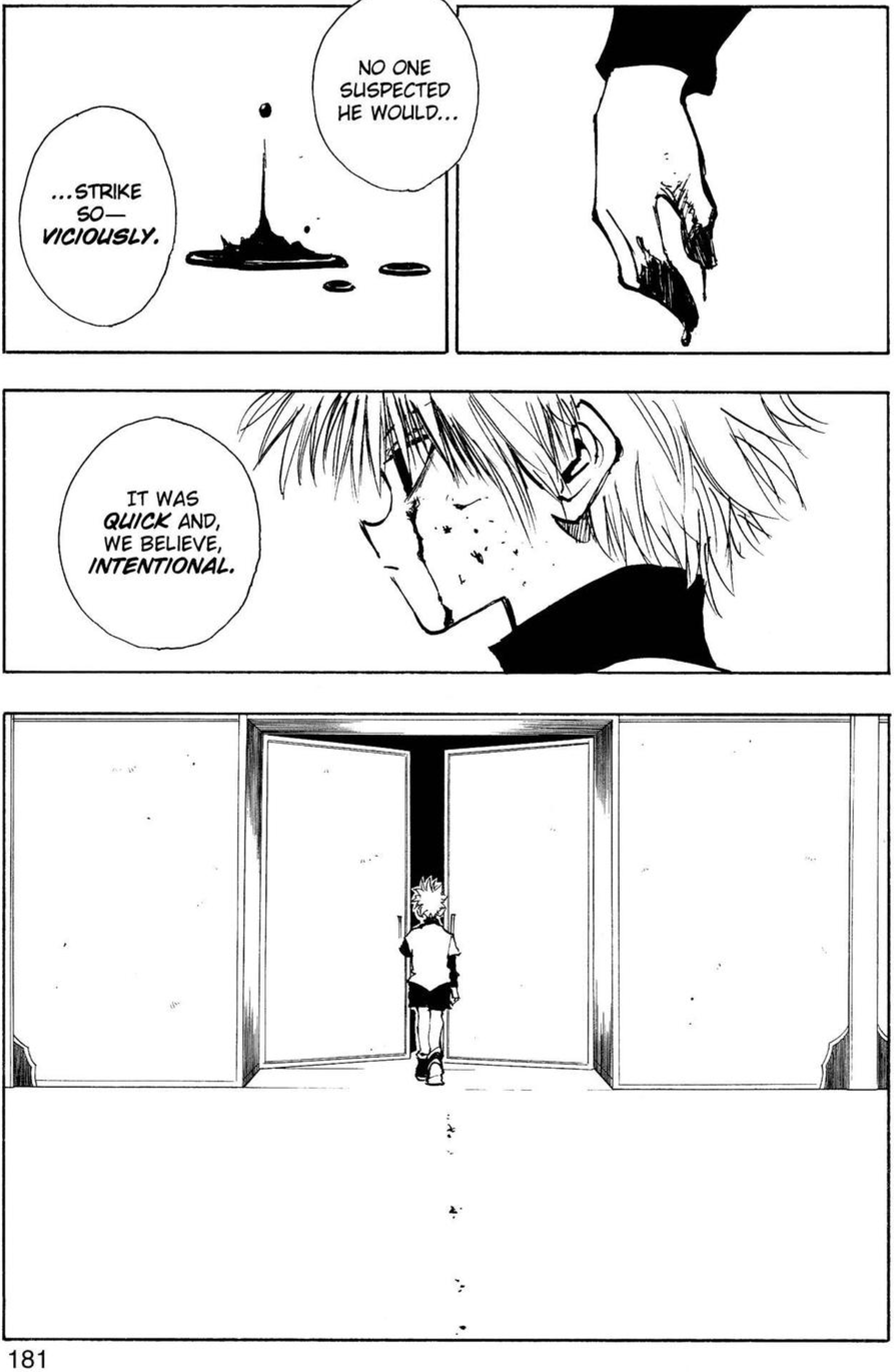

WHEN I...
...*TORTURE* SOMEONE, I KNOW HE'LL *DESPISE* ME FOR IT.
SO I DON'T SWEAT IT.
?
ANY VICTIM WILL LOOK AT HIS TORMENTOR WITH A *VENGEFUL FIRE* IN HIS EYES.
EVEN THE MOST *DISCIPLINED* WARRIOR CAN'T *REALLY HIDE* HIS *HATRED AND RESENTMENT.*
BUT THERE, IN *GON'S* EYES...
...I SAW *NONE* OF THAT...EVEN *AFTER* I BROKE HIS ARM.
NONE OF IT REALLY MATTERED TO HIM.

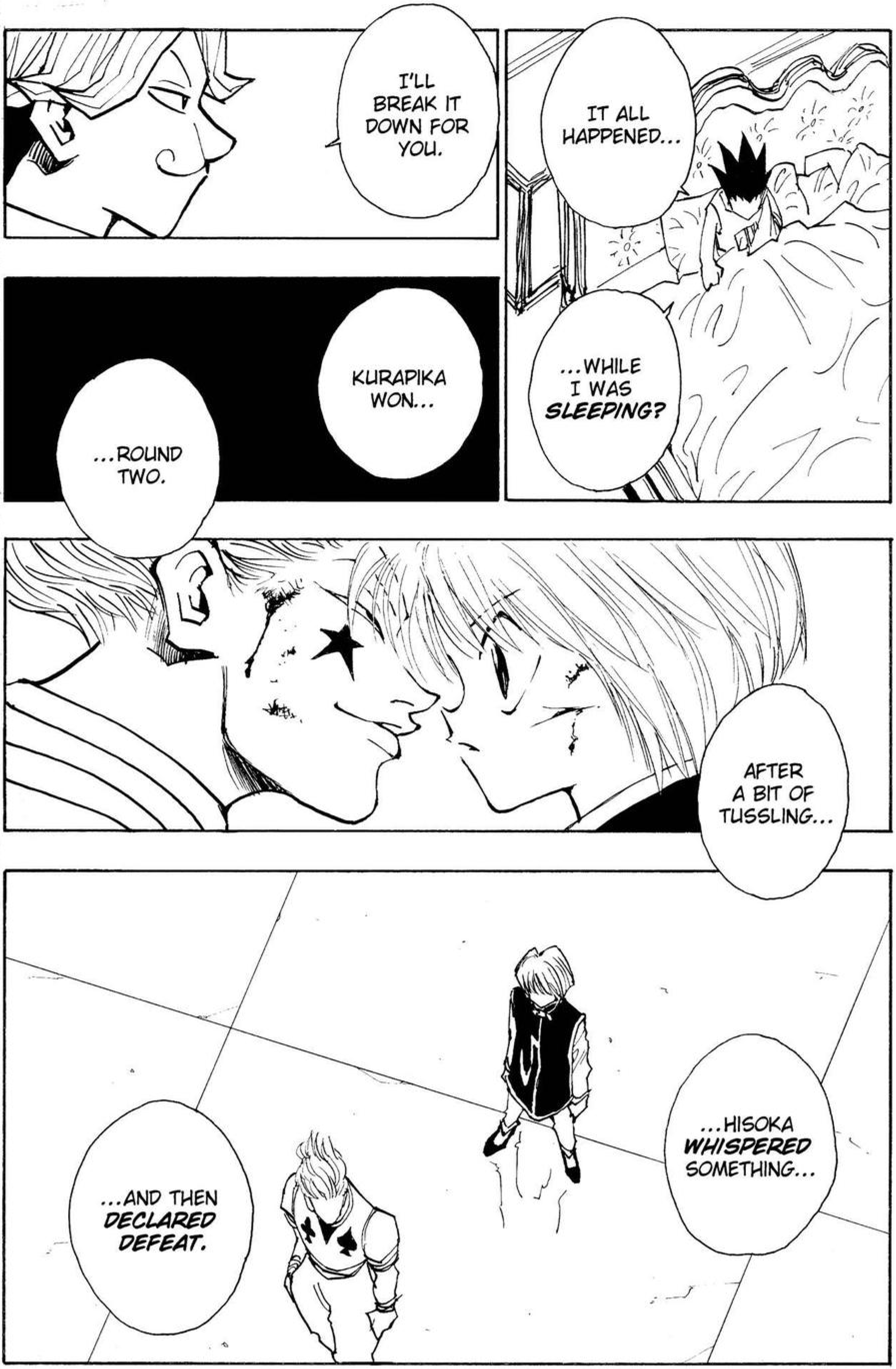
READ THIS WAY


I KINDA *LIKE* THE LITTLE RUNT NOW.
GUESS *THAT'S* WHY I *DECIDED* TO LOSE.
ROUND TWO! KURAPIKA VS. HISOKA!

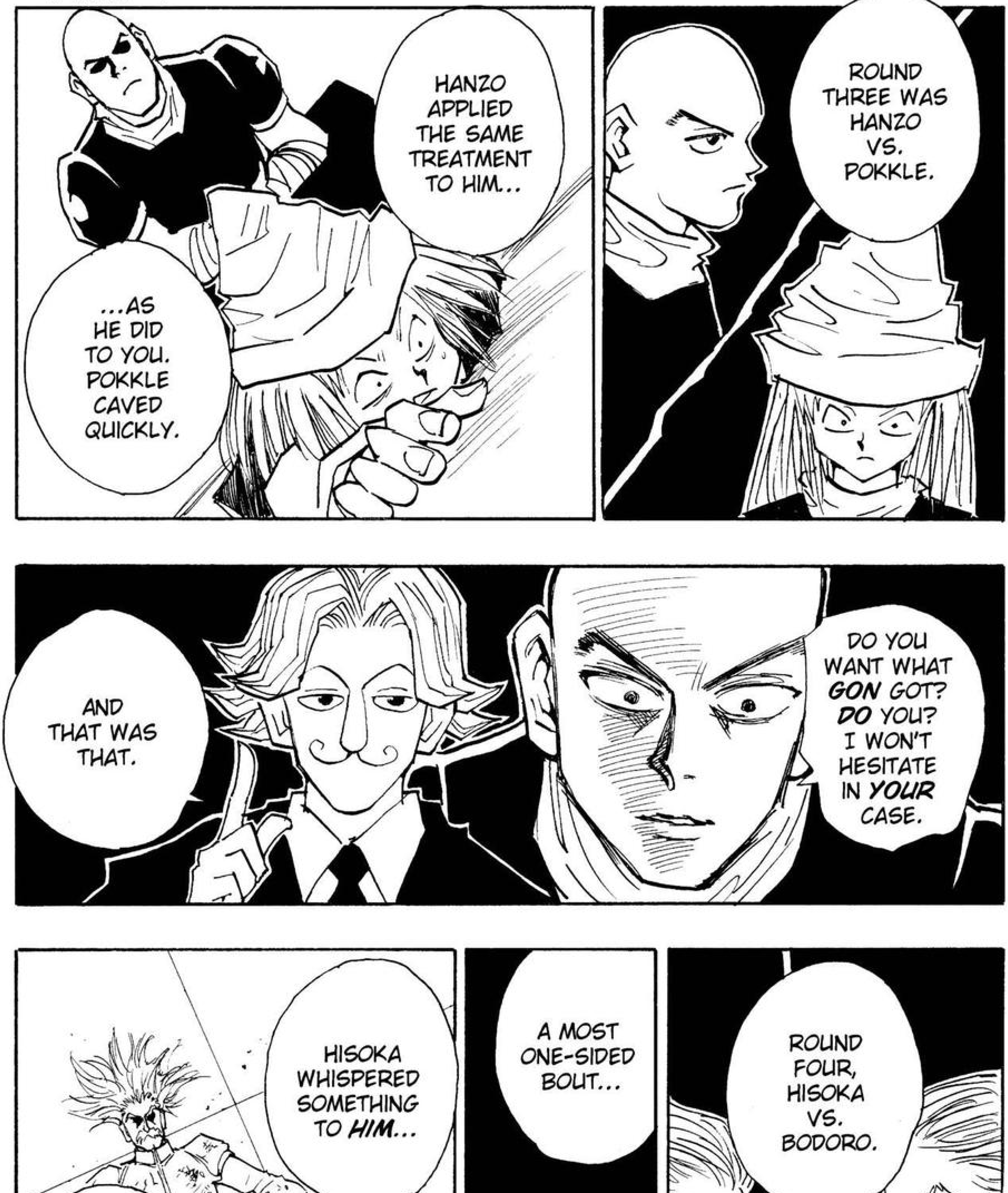

KILLUA FAILED? WHY?
HE BROKE THE RULES.
THE RULES?
YOU MEAN...?
HE KILLED SOMEONE.

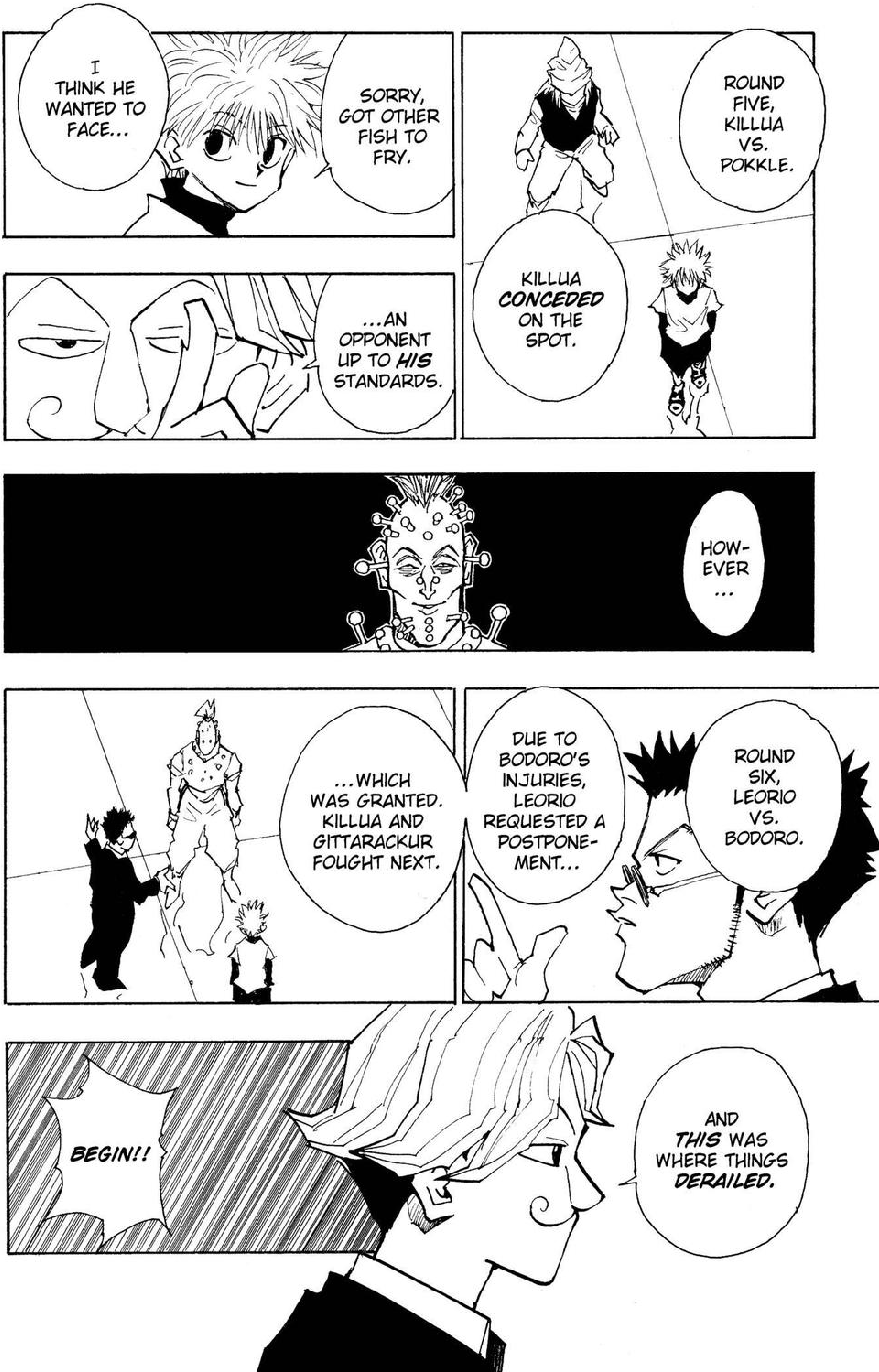
READ THIS WAY


NO ONE SUSPECTED HE WOULD...
...STRIKE SO—*VICIOUSLY.*
IT WAS *QUICK* AND, WE BELIEVE, *INTENTIONAL.*

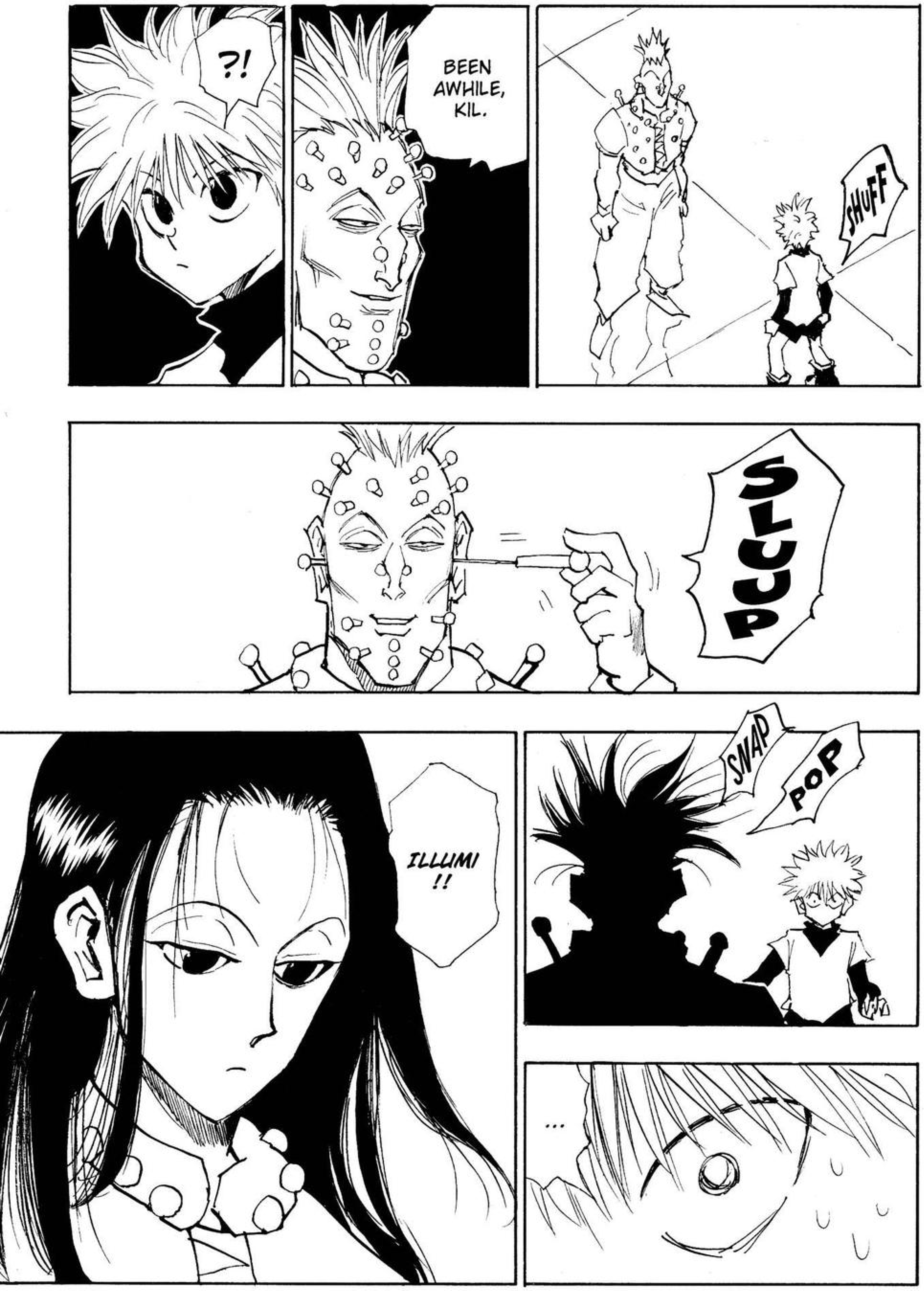

IT ALL HAPPENED...
...WHILE I WAS *SLEEPING?*
I'LL BREAK IT DOWN FOR YOU.
KURAPIKA WON...
...ROUND TWO.
AFTER A BIT OF TUSSLING...
...HISOKA *WHISPERED* SOMETHING...
...AND THEN *DECLARED DEFEAT.*

READ THIS WAY


ROUND THREE WAS HANZO VS. POKKLE.
HANZO APPLIED THE SAME TREATMENT TO HIM...
...AS HE DID TO YOU. POKKLE CAVED QUICKLY.
DO YOU WANT WHAT **GON** GOT? **DO** YOU? I WON'T HESITATE IN **YOUR** CASE.
AND THAT WAS THAT.
ROUND FOUR, HISOKA VS. BODORO.
A MOST ONE-SIDED BOUT...
...BUT BODORO WAS STUBBORN.
HISOKA WHISPERED SOMETHING TO **HIM**...
...AND THIS TIME, EMERGED **THE WINNER.**


ROUND FIVE, KILLUA VS. POKKLE.
KILLUA *CONCEDED* ON THE SPOT.
SORRY, GOT OTHER FISH TO FRY.
I THINK HE WANTED TO FACE...
...AN OPPONENT UP TO *HIS* STANDARDS.
HOW-EVER ...
ROUND SIX, LEORIO VS. BODORO.
DUE TO BODORO'S INJURIES, LEORIO REQUESTED A POSTPONEMENT...
...WHICH WAS GRANTED. KILLUA AND GITTARACKUR FOUGHT NEXT.
AND *THIS* WAS WHERE THINGS *DERAILED.*
BEGIN!!

READ THIS WAY


SHUFF
BEEN AWHILE, KIL.
?!
SLUUP
SNAP
POP
...
ILLUMI !!